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The Chinese flag is raised by People's Liberation Army soldiers at a handover ceremony in Hong Kong yesterday after 156 years of British rule. (Reuters)

Britain returns Hong Kong to China

By Jerusalem Post staff and news agencies

HONG KONG — The red flag of Communist China flew over Hong Kong's international airport just minutes after Beijing assumed control of the former British colony last night.

President Jiang Zemin hailed the handover as a triumph for the Chinese nation and said Hong Kong people would keep their freedoms, and were masters of their own piece of China.

"This is both a festival for the Chinese nation and a victory for the universal cause of peace and justice," Jiang said in a speech accepting the 156-year-old British colony back at midnight.

"July 1, 1997 will go down in the annals of history as a day that merits eternal memory."

Jiang paid a warm tribute to Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who died last February, for his creative genius in devising China's reunification strategy, known as the "one country two systems" policy.

He thanked all in China and Britain who had translated the policy into Hong Kong's successful handover and welcomed its 6.4 million people into "the

embrace of the motherland."

About 500 armed troops from the People's Liberation Army streamed across the border hours ahead of the handover.

More Hong Kong coverage, Pages 5 and 9

The troops, many armed with assault rifles, crossed the border seated in buses or standing stiffly erect in open trucks.

Another 4,000 PLA troops were to cross the border by land, sea and air six hours after a midnight handover ceremony.

The British royal yacht Britannia, meanwhile, cast off



from Hong Kong harbor with Prince Charles and the last colonial governor of the territory, Chris Patten, on board.

Before boarding, Patten and his wife Lavender bade emotional farewells to scores of friends and staff members on the Hong Kong harbor wharf.

"I have relinquished the administration of this government. God Save the Queen," said a cable from Gov. Patten to London, sent at the midnight deadline as sovereignty changed.

With a simple ceremony, the playing of both countries' national anthems and a switch of flags, the former colony was passed from the dwindling British Empire to the world's most populous nation.

And in a moment, the territory's people ceased to be British subjects and became citizens of a new entity called the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

The Chinese flag and Hong Kong's new flag finished their ascent up the flagpole eight seconds after midnight.

"China will tonight take responsibility for a place and a people which matter greatly to us all," Prince Charles said in a speech shortly before the Union

Jack came down in front of a global array of VIPs gathered in a hall overlooking Hong Kong harbor.

"We shall not forget you, and we shall watch with the closest interest as you embark on this new era of your remarkable history," he said.

As "God Save the Queen" played, Charles, heir to the British throne, watched the British flag descend for the final time with a dejected expression and a far-off look in his eye.

Patten was less circumspect: he looked downright sullen, and spent mere seconds at a post-ceremony handshake gathering before turning on his heel and walking off.

He did not appear to shake hands with Jiang. But minutes later, Patten was seen smiling and joking with other guests.

On the Chinese side, only Premier Li Peng smiled slightly during the ceremony.

As Patten, his family, and others in the British delegation boarded Britannia in Hong Kong harbor, Chinese and British well-wishers reached out across a police barrier to hug him.

"Hip, hip, huray," the crowd roared.

PM, Levy to talk terms

Sharon opposes Levy's demand to disband inner forum



By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to hold a reconciliation meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy today, during which the two are to discuss Levy's conditions for remaining in the cabinet.

Foreign Minister David Levy denies reports he opposes the appointment of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as finance minister during a press conference yesterday. (Isaac Harezi)

Khalani: Government is committing suicide, Page 2
Levy in hiding, Page 2

But the adamant objection of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to Levy's demand to abolish the inner security cabinet may present a new obstacle and further delay the cabinet reshuffle. Sharon has announced that unless he joins the inner cabinet, he will not take on the post of finance minister.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is also reportedly less than pleased with the idea of abolishing the inner cabinet and establishing Levy as some kind of super-minister above the others. However, his spokesman issued a statement denying any rancor on Mordechai's part and accepting any decision the prime minister makes on the issue.

Netanyahu said yesterday he has

full confidence in Levy and intends to consult with him soon on affairs of state.

Sources close to Levy said Netanyahu's words will first have to pass the test of reality, otherwise there is no point to the meeting. They noted Levy has received promises and assurances from the prime minister before, and they have not been kept.

The sources emphasized that this time Levy "means business" and will not allow the prime minister to fudge the issue or mislead him with empty statements of confidence and cooperation.

The sources said Levy has thrown Netanyahu's government a "life line" by stopping on the brink of resignation. This is Netanyahu's last chance, they said. If he does not agree to Levy's demands, or reverts to his old modus operandi of doing things behind Levy's back, the foreign minister will quit.

At his press conference yesterday, Levy voiced a scathing critique of governmental operations.

See STRUGGLE, Page 2

Arafat held secret meeting with IDF security chief

Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat met secretly on Saturday in Gaza with Brig.-Gen. Herzl Getz, the head of the IDF committee that deals with day-to-day security issues with the PA, Israel Radio reported last night. The report said that security cooperation on all levels has been renewed as a result of the meeting. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Bezeq faces anti-trust probe of international prices

By JUDY SIEGEL and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

It was still not clear last night whether the era of competition in overseas dialling will be introduced this morning or have to wait for another couple of days. Communications Minister Limor Livnat and ministry officials were last night involved in non-stop talks with the heads of Bezeq International, Barak and Golden Lines, just as they were the previous night until the small hours of yesterday morning. The problem: results from Bezeq International's announcement to its customers of

low overseas dialling rates, "pending approval by the Communications Ministry" that would undercut those the ministry approved for Bezeq's new competitors — Golden Lines and Barak.

As a way of having more leverage over Bezeq International and greater control over overseas dialling rates, Livnat yesterday pushed through its first reading in the Knesset an amendment to the Bezeq Law, which would let the communications minister set maximum and minimum rates for Bezeq International calls. This, said the minister, would be in effect only for a few months, until competition stabilized the market.

The bill will be rushed urgently

to the Knesset Economics Committee today.

The Antitrust Authority continued a search of Bezeq International's offices yesterday and will question the company's chief executives in the near future, said Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor. Tadmor declined to comment on any of the search's findings or to reveal who will be questioned.

The investigation to see if Bezeq's pricing practices would preclude fair competition will take several weeks, he said.

"The question is whether the prices (set by Bezeq) are predatory and if they are geared towards preventing competition," said Tadmor.

PA website denies Jewish history of Western Wall

By JUDY SIEGEL and HAIM SHAPIRO

The Palestinian Authority's Internet website denies the Western Wall was ever part of the Temple. It says the Israeli government has turned the wall into a religious shrine and prohibited non-Jews from entering.

Meanwhile, a photograph of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat appears — along with others showing US President Bill Clinton, Jordan's King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Pope John Paul II and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl — on the Prime Minister's Office's new Internet site, launched yesterday.

The PA website is subtitled, "Jerusalem Our Capital." It lists "the most important sites for the three monotheistic religions" as: 1. al-Aksa Mosque, 2. The Dome of the Rock, 3. Church of Holy Sepulcher, 4. Church of

Gethsemane, and 5. al-Boraq Wall.

The wall, "part of the exterior facade of the western wall of al-Aksa Mosque," was where al-Boraq, the creature which carried Mohammed to heaven, was tied.

"Some Orthodox religious Jews consider it as a holy place for them, and claim that the wall is part of their temple. All historic studies and archeological excavations have failed to find proof for such a claim," the website says.

"In order to undermine the foundations of al-Aksa Mosque, the Israeli government has converted it into a religious shrine for Jews, prohibiting non-Jews to enter it, except for a limited number of tourists."

In another section, Israel is accused of having sent its archeological teams to excavate around and below al-Aksa, "which has caused great damage to the historic buildings." Israel, it says, has desecrated Islamic holy places, setting fire to al-Aksa in 1969 and

attempting to blow it up in 1980. The website also says that Israel "desecrated the holy tombs inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and looted many churches."

The Prime Minister's Office site, found at <http://www.pmo.gov.il>, has been produced in Hebrew and English at a cost of \$40,000. It will be updated regularly with transcripts of the premier's speeches and interviews, policy papers, news articles from the Israel press and — presumably — the names of reshuffled cabinet members.

Michael Stoltz, deputy director of communications in the Prime Minister's Office, is in charge of the site. He said yesterday that people with Internet access may send e-mail comments, all of which will be read by a handful of staffers in the office.

"The premier won't read them off the screen, but we will present him with a representative collection of them," said Stoltz, who added that Netanyahu "is able to

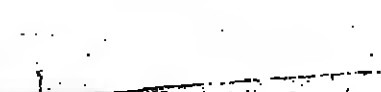
cybersurf a bit."

The site will be informational, not political or party oriented, Stoltz said. A bi-weekly audio message from Netanyahu, which will be aired exclusively on the Internet, is also currently under development.

Click the Government Press Office button and get a list of government spokesmen. The list includes their cellular phone numbers, faxes and direct phone numbers, but is not completely updated (the previous Health Ministry spokesman is given rather than the present occupant). The site also includes a "Virtual Library" of documents, including transcripts from various interviews and press conferences the premier has given, plus a number of recent speeches. There are also links to other Israeli official Internet sites.

There is no biography of Sara Netanyahu. For that one would have to go to American Friends of the Likud site at www.likud.org/pn/cvs.html.

To our readers Today is the first day of our expanded weekday newspaper. The World of Sport will no longer appear as a pullout supplement.





'Terrorists' aim guns at a 'hostage' yesterday in a demonstration of anti-terror methods and technology at Tel Aviv's Exhibition Grounds. (Israel Sun)

Security companies show off anti-terror wares at Tel Aviv exhibition

By RAINE MARCUS

A bulletproof podium used by VIPs was just one of the products shown off yesterday in a live display featuring anti-terror methods. A VIP was "shot at," rescued, and whisked away — masked by clouds of smoke — in a bulletproof car, just after she started her speech from the podium.

The staged display, which also included a busjacking, rescuing hostages, and capturing a terrorist from a building, marked the opening of the annual security exhibition starting this morning at Tel Aviv's Exhibition Grounds. Silver Shadow Advanced Security Systems manufactures the bulletproof podium and

other equipment, together with companies such as IML, Mor Operations, and International Technologies (Lasers) Ltd., which is exported around the world, company manager Amos Golan said.

"Police in Europe, for example, often ask for cooperation from private concerns in the war against terror, instead of consulting with a neighboring country, even though that country may be a friendly one," said Golan.

"This is a positive change."

Commando units dressed in black and backed up by a mini-ATV vehicle "rescued" a bus full of hostages, taking the terrorists captive. As a sniper leapt from a tree to assist the rescuing unit, the scene, accompanied by

gunfire, was filmed and recorded by wireless video cameras.

Another state-of-the-art product featured yesterday was the EM-block, an emergency road block that can be erected in seconds and whose massive spokes not only puncture tires but penetrate the chassis of the car.

The Batashon ATV, developed by Silver Shadow, is intended for built-up areas and for border control, Golan said.

"In fact it is a battle ATV; [it is] fitted with bulletproof glass, is especially fast, and allows easy access for combat units to scenes. Drivers can land from helicopters, jump onto the vehicle, which is also equipped for weapons, and whiz to the scene," said Golan.

Weizman apologizes for 'Mohammed as a Pig' poster

By DAVID RUDGE

Calling it an insult to the entire Arab world, President Ezer Weizman yesterday publicly apologized for the publication of the posters distributed to Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran.

Speaking with reporters in Tel Aviv, Weizman called the posters "despicable" and "an embarrassment."

Meanwhile, Israeli-Arab Moslems continued to stage demonstrations yesterday in protest over the posters. A delegation organized by the Islamic Movement and led by MKs from the United Arab List (UAL) visited Hebron yesterday and met there with Mayor Mustafa Natshe and local officials.

They later staged a parade through the main street to the Machpela Cave and the mosque there, during which a car allegedly drove towards the marchers forcing some of them to dive out of the way.

MK Abdul Malik Dahamshe, head of the UAL, said nobody was hurt, but the UAL lodged a complaint with police over the incident. The car was reportedly driven by a local Jewish resident.

Later the 80-strong delegation



Weizman: An embarrassment (Israel Herald)

person as is being depicted. This was organized by a large group of people," Dahamshe said.

He charged that the denunciation of the leaflets by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Weizman, and government ministers was insufficient.

"They should apologize not just to the mayor of Hebron, but to the 1.5 billion Moslems throughout the world," Dahamshe said.

"We went to Hebron and demonstrated opposite the Knesset, as is our right as Moslems, to protest against this destructive leaflet and the grave harm done to the Islamic religion," he said.

"We call on Netanyahu to uproot the settlers from Hebron. They have nothing to do there. They are only there to destroy the peace process and ignite the flames of war in the region."

A demonstration, organized by the Islamic Movement, also was held at the Kessem junction on the Hotzef Shomron road yesterday afternoon.

Newspapers in the Arab world reacted strongly to the posters, with many of them claiming that there was no way to separate the posters from Israel's settlement policy.

This leaflet was not produced and distributed in schools on the streets and elsewhere by just one. *Item contributed to this report.*

was joined by other Israeli Arabs and Islamic Movement supporters in a demonstration outside the Knesset.

Posters in Arabic and Hebrew called for Jewish settlers to be removed from Hebron and accused them of being responsible for incitement against Moslems throughout the world, which threatened to provoke war in the region on religious grounds.

"This leaflet was not produced and distributed in schools on the streets and elsewhere by just one

AT THE KNESSET

Bill to have flag displayed in all schools passes first reading

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday passed first reading of Communications Minister Limor Livnat's bill, which calls for the flag to be displayed in national institutions and schools. The bill was supported by Labor, the National Religious Party, and the Third Way; the Haredim opposed it.

The Education Committee, whose chairman Emanuel Zissmann has actively promoted the bill, will prepare the bill for further readings.

Bills to reinstate senior citizens benefits moving forward.

The Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday endorsed for first reading three bills which would return to senior citizens the benefits cut in the last budget. Committee chairman Maxim Levy (Geshet) said the cuts had created a crisis of confidence between the pensioner public and the Knesset and government. The government opposes giving back the benefits because of their high cost.

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) who proposed one of the bills, abstained in the committee vote to protest the sharp rise in the dollar which has caused rents to jump. He said there is a need for a sense of priorities, for example, helping those pensioners who cannot afford to pay rent before giving back benefits such as half-price theater tickets to the wealthy older public.

Committee asked to investigate school benefits. Meretz MK Ran Cohen, chairman of the Knesset State Control

Committee, has written to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to ask that she investigate reports that the Education Ministry intends to grant certain benefits to state schools which agree to increase lessons on religious affairs.

NRP: Pay psychologists the same as veterinarians. After meeting with representatives of public-sector psychologists, who have been striking to protest their low salaries, the National Religious Party yesterday demanded that the psychologists' pay be made comparable to that of veterinarians. If this demand is not met, the party's representative on the Knesset Finance Committee — MK Zvi Hendel — will be allowed to vote against coalition lines, the NRP decided.

Law committee endorses bill to limit sexual services ads. After an argument-filled meeting, the Knesset Law Committee yesterday endorsed for first reading a bill which would require newspapers which run advertisements for sexual services, such as escort agencies and erotic phone lines, to publish them on a separate sheet which would be added only if the person who buys the newspaper demands it.

The bill, presented by National Religious Party Whip Hanan Porat, calls for a six months prison sentence for violations.

Porat agreed to postpone raising the law for further readings until a possible agreement could be reached with newspaper publishers.

Mordechai meets with 'Dakar' families

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Representatives of the families of the 69 sailors from the missile Israeli submarine *Dakar* met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and top IDF commanders yesterday and asked them to intensify the search for the submarine.

The 90-minute meeting in Mordechai's office came following complaints from the families that the minister had been avoiding them. But during the meeting, Mordechai promised that no costs

or efforts would be spared in order to find the *Dakar*.

Next month, searches are scheduled to resume in the Aegean Sea, aided by the US Navy, which will provide a special research submarine to scan the ocean floor for any signs of the wreckage of the sub, which went missing on its maiden voyage with all hands in January 1968. It is believed that the *Dakar* sank deeper than it should have due to human error or a technical malfunction, thus causing its frame to buckle under the weight of the sea.

Morag protest fizzles out

By JON IMMANUEL

Most Palestinians folded their tents and went home yesterday, a month after starting protests near Morag in Gush Katif against the establishment of a memorial to a soldier killed by Palestinians during last September's riots.

However, there appeared to be no agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the IDF concerning the problem which caused the protests in the first place.

The Palestinians said they understood the memorial would be moved inside the settlement. The IDF said the Palestinian decision was unilateral and that no compromise had been reached.

A few Palestinian protest tents remained by the memorial. However, the IDF did remove part of a fence which blocked their free passage.

The dispute began when Palestinians claimed ownership of land on which Morag was building a perimeter fence and placing a memorial to slain soldier Yehuda Levy. Palestinians said it was under PA control, while Israel said it was part of

settlement land. A senior PA security official said "Israel was behaving like Sbylock."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was reported as saying it was Jewish-owned land, but under PA civil authority. But yesterday the IDF Spokesman said the land was "absolutely under our control."

The decision to fold up the tents was taken at the senior echelon of the PA and follows a winding course of confrontations during the past two weeks. A riot which erupted in Hebron on Saturday for the first time in a week was a direct response to flyers denigrating Islam found in the market, rather than a planned confrontation. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat also said Sunday that he has given orders for PA-IDF security meetings to resume.

In Hebron yesterday, settlers demanded the IDF permit them to build in the area near Avraham Avinu, and began symbolically working there yesterday morning. "It is not acceptable that Jews in Hebron are not allowed to build, while Palestinians build everywhere in the city," said spokesman Noam Arnon.

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PA prisoner dies in hospital

By JON IMMANUEL

A Gaza man arrested eight days ago by a Palestinian security official for insulting his wife, died yesterday seven days after being admitted to a hospital in a coma after a severe beating.

Nasser Radwan, 28, was arrested by Mahmoud Zayyad, a bodyguard for Col. Abu Nasser Freihat, who appeared to have ordered the arrest.

According to the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, Freihat told members of Radwan's family who came to complain about their son's arrest before he was hospitalized, that, "If I were Mahmoud I would have killed him. I didn't want Zayyad to be arrested at home but in the street so that it would take you months to find him."

In addition to being hit in the head, Radwan had signs of beatings on his legs and arms, a Shifa Hospital report said. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered an investigation which led to eight arrests in the force known to be closest to him.

PHRMG noted that the death of Radwan demonstrates again that there is "a culture of violence in the security forces, there is lack of accountability extending up the chain of command and official status is used to solve personal disputes."

Radwan is the 14th Palestinian to have died in PA custody since the Oslo accords.

Pennies from Heaven

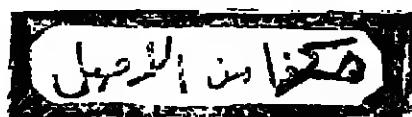
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NEWS

in brief

Akum sues Tom Jones's impresario

Akum, the composers union, yesterday sued Tel Aviv impresario Ze'ev Isaac for NIS 40,000 for not paying composers' royalties on four songs sung by Tom Jones in a concert at the Tel Aviv Cinerama in March. Akum told Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court that Isaac ignored the notice it sent him asking for the fees on songs popularized by Jones including *Delilah* and *The Green, Green Grass of Home*. The defense has not yet filed a brief. *litm*

Soldiers' joy ride ends in crash

Three soldiers "borrowed" an IDF command car and took it for a joy ride in the Jordan Valley, and subsequently flipped and abandoned it in a training ground. The driver fled with his weapon and was found this morning in apparent good health hiding in the settlement of Mehola. The other two soldiers returned on their own accord to their base and were hospitalized for examinations. The army has opened an investigation into the matter. *Avrieh O'Sullivan*

El Al reaches New York in record time

An El Al flight to New York has set a new record for the company and completed the 9,500 kilometer journey, which normally takes 11 1/2 hours, in just under 10 hours. The Boeing 747-400 on flight LY 021, with pilot Yehuda Levran, left Ben-Gurion Airport at 7:45 a.m. on Sunday with optimal weather conditions and arrived after nine hours and 59 minutes. The last record for the company was set in 1985 with a flight of 10 hours and 19 minutes.

Company spokesman Nachman Kleiman said yesterday that the company is contacting Boeing in order to determine if the flight constitutes an international record. He added that the air crew had to adjust the times for meals in order to get all the food served before the flight was over. *Haim Shapiro*

Kahalani: Let the squatters buy apartments

Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that no solution has been found to the nearly month-long occupation of the Mevasseret Yerushalayim absorption center by homeless squatters and that tomorrow he would recommend letting the squatters purchase apartments. A confrontation between police and squatters on Sunday night ended when the squatters threatened to ignite cooking-gas canisters and blow themselves up. Kahalani said he has also asked the police to prepare a plan to remove the settlers by force. *litm*

Study: Falls account for third of child injuries

By JUDY SIEGEL

Falling from high places accounts for a growing number of injuries and deaths of children, especially in the Arab sector, according to a new study carried out by Rambam Hospital and Haifa University. In the most recent incident on Sunday, three-year-old Aharon Spiegel of Netanya died after falling from an unbarred fifth-floor window when he was left alone at home.

The study, described by Rambam doctors as "shocking and worrisome," surveyed children from infancy to age 14 hospital-

ized at Rambam between 1985 and 1995. One out of every three children admitted for trauma had been hurt in a fall down the stairs or from the roof, balcony, or other heights.

During the past few years, the incidence has increased: 150 falls annually during the first three years and 350 annually during the last three. Since 1993, an average of 50 children per year have been admitted to intensive care units due to complications from falls.

Arab children accounted for the majority of falls in the Haifa area. Half of them were aged one to four, and most suffered serious injuries.

Conversion committee meets

'Forgotten' Na'amat observer warns High Court petition could be reconsidered

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The committee which is to work out a compromise regarding the registration of Reform and Conservative converts held its first meeting yesterday in the Prime Minister's Office. The committee ran into difficulties almost as soon as it began, first from Na'amat and then from secular Jews who want to be represented on the committee.

The committee, set up according to a compromise agreement between representatives of the two movements and coalition chairman MK Michael Eitan, is to discuss how converts of the two movements in Israel could be registered as Jews. It is headed by former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman and includes five Orthodox representatives and a representative from each of the two non-Orthodox movements. As part of the compromise, the two movements have suspended their petitions to the High Court of Justice regarding conversions in Israel.

The committee was also to include, as an observer, Ofra Friedman, head of Na'amat, which had also participated in a petition to recognize the Conservative conversion of adopted infants. Na'amat spokesperson Carmel Eitan said yesterday that the Prime Minister's Office had "forgotten" to invite Friedman and warned that Na'amat, which also had asked to suspend its petition, could ask the court to reconsider it at any time. Committee coordinator Yitzhak Herzog said the omission was due to an oversight. Friedman, he said, was most welcome. She was an expert in the field and on one doubted her right to be at the committee meetings, he said.

In another development, attorney Doron Yomtov Niv, who defines himself as a secular Jew, petitioned the High Court to also have secular Jews on the committee. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who opened the meeting, told the members that he considers their work very important and asked them to do their utmost to reach a solution to which they all agreed at the earliest possible time. The committee is to meet again tomorrow, when it is to hear a review of the issue by the State Attorney. From next week, it is to begin meeting every day. The committee also issued a call to the public to submit any suggestions or comments by July 15.

UJA: Conversion bill hurts campaign

By AVRIEH DEAR COHEN

"I don't want my money to go to Israel" is a phrase being increasingly heard among donors to the United Jewish Appeal in reaction to the proposed conversion law, UJA National Chairman Richard Wexler said yesterday.

"As we sit here, the issues of Jewish unity are impacting on the campaign," Wexler said, noting that while the percentage increase by contributors is up, "I would be less than candid if I didn't say that the pace of the campaign has slowed down. We think this is attributable to rhetoric surrounding the issues concerning the conversion law legislation, and it's too early to tell whether the proposed compromise will have an impact on our donors."

"The success of our campaign is based on having a united Jewish people. And when there are divisions, our campaigns are affected," Wexler said.

Wexler said the number of people who are reducing their gifts to the campaign, or are walking away from it entirely based on this issue are still few. But what we are hearing are people who say, "I don't want my money to go to Israel," thereby confusing the needs that are served by the money that is sent to the UJA and raised by us. This is the way they express their outrage at the government of Israel."

Wexler said the UJA plans to "go ahead and continue to raise money to meet the needs of our people as if

this issue didn't exist, and we're going to fight hard as I think we have to on this issue, as if the needs don't exist. I don't think there's any choice. This is the message we are getting from our donors and the Federation system. That this is a critical issue to American Jews, and until there is a solution here [domestic harmony] here, we are not going to be able to have shalom bayit on this issue in our own homes and our own communities."

The UJA leader said the tensions on the issue also were clearly visible within American Jewry. After deciding to start a separate campaign to fund projects in Israel that support "tolerance and unity," Wexler said the UJA approached the Orthodox Union and Rabbinic Assembly to see if they were interested in getting involved.

"I got a very strong letter from the executive of the OU indicating that the word 'pluralism' in their name like waving a red flag in front of a bull," he said.

Last year's campaign raised \$720 million, and with 75 percent of this year's drive over, the UJA is 9% over that figure.

"But we've fallen behind the pace we were aiming for before this issue came up. We were hoping to increase the number of contributions this year by 50,000 and we'll be hard-pressed to do that," Wexler said.

Wexler added that contributors increasingly want to "see their contributions, something the UJA discourages."



A doctor examines Shalom Gozlan following surgery at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital to restore his sight. (Avi Hayoun)

Operation restores man's sight by using membrane from his mouth

By JUDY SIEGEL

In a first-of-its-kind operation in Israel, mucous membrane from the mouth of a 72-year-old blind man from Beersheba has been transplanted into his eye to hold a plastic lens in place, allowing him to see. The successful operation was performed at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, where doctors reported this week that the patient's eyesight has been restored.

The man, Shalom Gozlan, suffered three years ago from an inflammatory eye disease, called cicatricial pemphigoid, which made him totally blind. In this disease, the transparent cornea is covered by a membrane and keeps out the light.

During the past three decades, victims of the disease have undergone implants of plastic lenses, called keratoprostheses. In most cases, however, they have been able to see only for a few months, because the patient's eye tends to produce materials that dissolve the contact between the lens and the supporting tissue, causing infections or a slippage of the lens from its place.

Based on French know-how, the Hadassah ophthalmologists, headed by Dr. Yossi Frucht, covered the lens with the patient's own oral mucous membrane. A few months later, when the lens stabilizes, an opening of five millimeters in the membrane is made to expose the lens to light inside the eye. Gozlan's first operation was performed on one eye at Hadassah in April, and two weeks ago, a hole was made in the membrane to uncover the lens; he can now see.

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Ovadia Yosef's comment raises furor

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A comment by former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef that one should not walk between two

women, just as one should not walk between two donkeys, has elicited a spate of anger from women's groups.

The comment, as reported in

Ma'ariv yesterday, was made by Yosef, who is the spiritual mentor of the Shas Party, during a lesson on Saturday night at the Tiferet Yerushalayim Synagogue in Jerusalem. One who walked between two donkeys or two camels could oneself become a donkey, Yosef was quoted as saying.

The paper then quoted him as saying that one should not walk between two women — or two donkeys or two camels — because women do not engage in Torah learning and one who walks with them will become like them and forget the Torah.

The paper said that Yosef had been quoting the Talmud, Tractate Horayot, in a lesson which dealt with reasons for loss of memory, a condition which Yosef said could also come from eating food which had been touched by a mouse.

In response, Na'amat head Ofra Friedman said that if Yosef was not willing to allow women to study Torah, at least he should not insult them and should simply leave them alone.

Friedman said that every time the people of Shas imagine that someone has dared to besmirch the honor of the haredim, the whole state is preoccupied with the matter for weeks afterward, while humiliating women is a daily occurrence and no one worries about it.

Talma Neri, chair of WIZO Israel, described Yosef's words as a crude attack on the rights of human beings and the rights of



Ovadia Yosef (Gonen Harari)

women. She said they offended the sensibilities of the secular public, which did not observe the commandments, but was concerned with questions of equal rights, human honor and dignity and the honor of women.

Meretz head MK Yossi Segin said that Yosef had, on several occasions, made offensive remarks during his Saturday night lectures, and time by speaking of women as inferior creatures who should not approach. Segin condemned not only Yosef, but those politicians for whom Yosef's hoar was more important than the honor of women.

"Yosef would do well to restrict himself to donkeys, a subject which he knows," Segin said.

The Prime Minister's Office

On June 26, 1997, the Prime Minister appointed two committees for the formulation of recommendations regarding conversions.

The first committee, consisting of seven members, is headed by Professor Ya'acov Ne'eman. An additional committee, consisting of three members and headed by Rabbi Chaim Drukman, is responsible for submitting recommendations regarding the conversion of minors.

The committees invite members of the public to submit their suggestions and remarks in writing.

Due to the limited time allocated to the committees for completion of their tasks, correspondence should be submitted no later than July 15, 1997.

In addition to reviewing each application, the committees reserve the right to decide which specific applicants will be invited to appear before them.

Please refer your letters to:

The Advisor to the Prime Minister for Diaspora Affairs
The Prime Minister's Office
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Yitzhak Herzog, Adv. Committee Coordinator

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מכאן לתשלום

Beijing starts Hong Kong party

COMMENT Proud democrats

BEIJING (AP) — President Jiang Zemin yesterday ordered Chinese troops bound for Hong Kong to fulfill their "sacred mission" of defending Chinese soil and respecting the rights of the Hong Kong people.

Military leaders conveyed Jiang's message to the 4,000 Hong Kong-bound troops, forming a sea of white, green and blue uniforms, as they prepared to leave the border city of Shenzhen and take up their stations in Hong Kong after their midnight return to Chinese rule.

Jiang ordered the troops to assume their task of defending Hong Kong as of midnight and to respect Hong Kong's laws, people and way of life.

"This is an important symbol of the Chinese government's recovery of sovereignty over Hong Kong. The mission is sacred, the responsibility is great," Jiang said in a message read to the troops by Gen. Fu Quanyou at a solemn ceremony in the border city of Shenzhen.

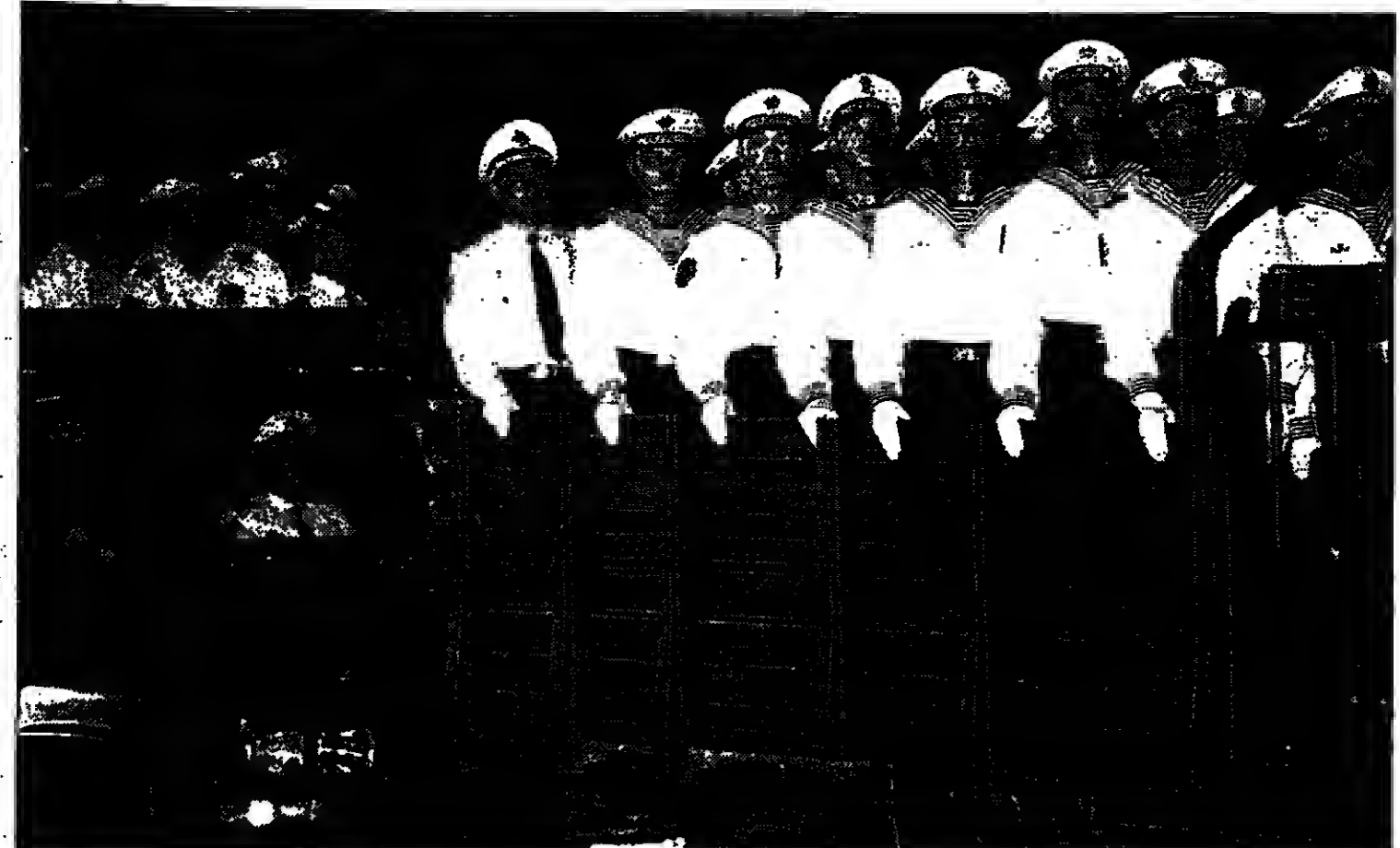
Jiang's order carried assurances that China will respect Hong Kong's freedoms. But it also underlined to the troops their importance to China.

"You must protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland and make a great contribution to safeguarding Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability," said Jiang, who heads the Communist Party and its Central Military Commission.

As reunification neared, China began two days of festivities to celebrate the event that the government-run newspaper *China Daily* declared a "watershed day for history books."

"The return of Hong Kong realizes a long-cherished dream of all people of Chinese origin. We share with the world the happiness of the grand family reunion," it said.

Beijing was decked out for the festivities with banners, lights, flowers and legions of scarlet



Some of the first troops from the People's Liberation Army arrive at Hong Kong's border checkpoint yesterday, hours before the British colony reverted to China at midnight. (Reuters)

Chinese flags. Children and adults alike clasped small Hong Kong and Chinese flags sold by sidewalk vendors.

Thousands of paramilitary police were deployed to clear Tiananmen Square yesterday afternoon in preparation for an all-night music and fireworks extravaganza open only to 100,000 dignitaries and other invitees.

The police jogged in formation onto the square and along major roads. At 3:30 p.m., they gave a shout and started moving in waves across the square, gradually

forcing out crowds gathered there.

Over the weekend hundreds of thousands of people streamed into the square to see the red lanterns, lights, a huge sign welcoming Hong Kong's return and a clock counting the seconds until Britain hands the colony back to China.

The crowds were the largest gathered in the vast plaza since more than a million people rallied in support of democracy in 1989. The military quelled those protests, killing perhaps hundreds of demonstrators.

Authorities have been deter-

mined to ensure nothing disrupts what the party claims as its greatest single act since it came to power in 1949.

"It is only under the leadership of the Communist Party of China that the century-old dream has been materialized," the party newspaper *People's Daily* said in a front-page commentary yesterday.

"The CPC is the force at the core for reunifying the motherland and invigorating the Chinese nation." Security precautions were tight nationwide.

Bao Ge, a Christian dissident recently released from a labor

camp who has petitioned incoming Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa on behalf of political activists, said phone lines to his home had been cut by police.

China's state-run Central Television yesterday began 72 hours of continuous coverage of the handover, interspersing documentaries, celebratory song and dance programs and commentary with related news reports.

Party leaders have prohibited state-run media from reporting anything that would detract from China's resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong.

Even if the rain had not poured relentlessly, there would not have been a dry eye in Victoria Harbor.

The return of Hong Kong to the motherland was China's day and China's story, but it is worth pausing to offer a little comfort to the bereaved British, who just lost 6.3 million of their favorite children.

Heaven knows we can be harsh on British governments, on their imperial history, on their royalty, on their pomposity, but the British departure from Hong Kong yesterday was a triumph for all that is the magnificent other side of the British coin.

Here was the stiff upper lip doing the right thing — coping with overwhelming emotion and loss with pride, dignity and breathless pageantry.

In an era of instantaneous and excessive news, it is heartening to find we can still not only see, but feel, history in the making. To this day, no one marks historic milestones like the British.

Britain could have done better for Hong Kong's people, to be sure. But it also could have done a lot worse. In Hong Kong the British came perilously close to making benign dictatorship credible.

And if anyone doubts that British manners and gentlemanly behavior still have a place in the world, China's churlish rudeness in refusing to attend the British farewell part of the ceremonies provided an unpleasant contrast.

Even the incoming leader Tung Chee-hwa could not bring himself to let hypones be hypones and join Governor Chris Patten for the last hurrah. The Chinese celebrations will make more noise, but the British made the lasting impression.

Patten stole the day among the personalities. His speech was stirring, his demeanor impressive, his audience's response resounding. And who would begrudge him his

moment of grief when, with bowed head and dignity still intact, he wept before the eyes of hundreds of millions.

But where were the "English?" There was the Prince of Wales, Dame Gweneth Evans, the legendary Scottish Black Watch, the Nepalese Gurkhas, the Scottish pipes and drums, Chinese everywhere. And all so thoroughly "British." There will be no British culture in the puritan Chinese ceremonies.

It was a whimsical reminder that Britain's eccentric colonial history may have bled and divided many countries under its often cynical rule but, like imperial Rome, it also has left the world a little grandeur, a little greatness, a little magnificence which its people have every right to be proud of.

Yesterday's elegant ceremony which skillfully blended Chinese and Western music and culture was a touching demonstration of the love the British developed for the people of this last glittering jewel of empire.

Yes, everyday Hong Kong is about greed and commerce and all those unromantic things that made it great.

The British part of yesterday's ceremony reminded us that Hong Kong was also about romance, adventure, color, the blending of two incredibly talented peoples, and the heroic struggles that led to great achievements.

As darkness fell, across the border the grim automatons of the People's Liberation Army lined up in sterile magnificence in the wet and eerie red glow of the checkpoint floodlights.

The final victory indeed is China's but in the eyes of the watching world, the last day belonged triumphantly to the old soldiers of the old empire.

Only the British have the right to be proud of being British. But at least they made the rest of us proud to be democrats.

Shipping tycoon Tung moves into a new hot seat

HONG KONG (AP) — The man who will steer Hong Kong into its future with China is no communist ideologue, but a boyhood refugee from China who became a shipping tycoon and pillar of the colonial elite.

Affable, thickset and sporting an iron-gray crew cut, 60-year-old Tung Chee-hwa is being sworn in early today to lead his 6.3 million people as head of a semi-autonomous government under Chinese sovereignty.

His main task is simple and daunting: to convince Hong Kong that he is defending its freedoms, while showing China that he is looking after its interests.

China has long regarded Hong Kong as a base for subverting its Communist system, and Tung has made it clear he will use the law to prevent that from happening.

To that end, he has followed China's wishes in rolling back some civil liberties in Hong Kong and replacing the elected legislature with a provisional one pending fresh elections within a year.

That hasn't endeared Tung to Hong Kong democrats. But at

least he confers with them regularly, rather than cold-shoulder them as China does.

So what if demonstrators have to get police permission, he says. The same applies in many Western cities. And why shouldn't political parties be barred from accepting foreign donations? Look at the US Democrats' problems on that front.

"If people want to demonstrate or lie in the middle of the road, in my view, they're welcome," but "within the law," he said.

Tung insists he would never crush a democratic movement as China did in 1989. Nor does he betray any xenophobia, insisting he wants to keep Hong Kong as open and friendly to the West as it is now.

But he maintains that Hong Kong is "too politicized" and needs to work harder on what he calls "Chinese values" of self-discipline, hard work and community duties.

During the 10 years he lived in the United States, he says, he saw law and order break down as the movement against the Vietnam War grew. He says that mustn't happen in Hong Kong.

Gov. Chris Patten scoffs at the comparison, saying Hong Kong is



Tung Chee-hwa (Reuters)

also say Tung is a businessman who has lost touch with Hong Kong's developing political consciousness. Lee says Tung is two generations behind the times.

Still, he believes Tung is a man of integrity, and so says virtually everyone who knows him, including his many friends in the American establishment.

Handover provisions

These are the main provisions governing Chinese rule:

- Hong Kong guaranteed semi-autonomous government for 50 years under Basic Law, constitution Beijing wrote for post-colonial rule. Beijing to handle only defense and foreign affairs.
- Chief executive: Tung Chee-hwa.
- Provisional legislature: 60 members, set up by China to replace one elected in September 1995, on grounds Britain changed voting rules without Chinese approval. Elected by panel of 400 Beijing-approved Hong Kong dignitaries. To be replaced by elected legislature by mid-1998.
- English common law to continue as legal code, separate from Chinese law.

Taiwan negotiator hopes for thaw with China

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan's representative to the Hong Kong handover celebrations flew to the former British colony bearing hopes that his visit will help thaw the freeze in Taipei-Beijing relations.

Ties between Hong Kong and Taiwan will strengthen after July 1, with "culture as the core and trade as the driving force," Koo Chen-fu told reporters before his departure.

That would provide a "positive and active function" in relations between Taiwan and China, Koo said.

"This is the triple-win scenario we are hoping for," he added.

The *United Evening News* reported that a private meeting is being arranged with Hong Kong's future leader chief, Tung Chee-hwa, and Koo said he would invite Tung to visit Taiwan.

Berisha loses Albania election

TIRANA (Reuters) — Albanian President Sali Berisha conceded yesterday that his Democratic Party had lost a general election at the weekend which was endorsed by international observers as "adequate and acceptable." But Berisha kept Albanians guessing on whether the defeat meant he would resign.

His brief statement on state television, before official results had been declared, appeared to confirm that the Socialist Party has swept to victory after months of unrest.

"Albanian voters yesterday seemingly voted that the Democratic Party should be in opposition. On this occasion I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those hundreds and thousands of Albanians...who supported the Democratic Party," Berisha said.

"I invite all these electors, all the members, activists, sympathizers of the Democratic Party to treat yesterday's verdict with courage and dignity."

Catherine Lalumiere, the top official observing the election under the auspices of the

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said the vote had showed Albanians' desire for a democratic future "despite minor flaws in many areas and some very serious problems in a few areas."

"We believe therefore that we can say that the elections can be considered as adequate and acceptable," she said. "The result of these elections can be the foundation for a stable, democratic system, which Albanians want and deserve." The OSCE, together with the Council of Europe and a 100-strong delegation from the United States, monitored Sunday's first round of the election. Run-offs will be held next Sunday in constituencies where no candidate won outright.

Berisha said he would respect all the commitments he made before and during the hard-fought campaign but it was unclear whether that meant he would step down. Many Albanians believe it is only a matter of time before he goes.

Democratic Party chairman Tritan Shkhu said: "He has not resigned for the moment. But it all depends on him now."

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Too many tantrums

Foreign Minister David Levy's quest for respect has turned into a national embarrassment. Sometime in the middle of last week's coalition crisis, Levy decided it would not be a proper crisis unless he, too, were among the dissatisfied.

It would be one thing if Levy were a diligent minister, standing up for matters of principle that were critical to the proper management of the serious portfolio under his responsibility.

Perhaps Levy should have been informed about the meeting, if only to avoid precisely such a tantrum. Netanyahu is to be faulted for not showing basic courtesy and consideration for the need of his foreign minister to be at least informed of important meetings relating to his jurisdiction.

But the lack of seriousness with which Levy has approached his ministerial responsibilities drains this latest pretense of standing on principle of all credibility.

Levy has shown little interest in the day-to-day work of the ministry, and has not distinguished himself either on strategy or even by simply making sure the government's positions are effectively presented around the globe.

Now it is Levy's own ego trip that is sabotaging Israel's foreign policy. Largely because of the coalition crisis, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz decided to postpone a visit to Israel in the ongoing effort to restart the stalled talks with the Palestinians.

In a rambling press conference yesterday, Levy denied he had been boycotting meetings, making threats, and generally tying up the

wheels of government. Over and over again, Levy emphasized how critical it was that each minister have sole jurisdiction over their own domain, his being foreign policy.

Of course, the Levy doctrine of non-interference is a strictly one-way affair—he retains the right to be the chief opponent of any meaningful cut in the budget. Even though the idea of having each minister be the clear leader within their own portfolio has a certain good-government ring to it, Levy has not earned, through his own energy and creativity, exclusive control of the foreign policy arena.

Shimon Peres, in addition to being a consummate political operator, demonstrated how an activist foreign minister can drive policy even when the prime minister does not intend to give him such a dominant role.

Ironically, the direct election of the prime minister was supposed to prevent just the sort of paralyzing grandstanding that Levy seems to revel in. What Netanyahu has demonstrated is that if the prime minister systematically alienates most of his ministers, even the new law will not protect him from constant threats from within.

The weakness of Netanyahu's government has obscured and outweighed the strengthening effect of the new electoral system. Under the new system, the government is practically immune to toppling from without. What no one predicted is that Netanyahu would so quickly and effectively undermine his own support within the government.

The refrain heard over and over again from cabinet ministers is that they are basically satisfied with the policies of the government; it is the way they are treated and the babbarad decision making process they cannot stand.

Instead of taking advantage of the government's weakness to jump on to his own soap box, Levy should roll up his own sleeves and get to work. But Netanyahu must accept that leadership is not just a matter of forcing through decisions by hook or by crook.

Let us see them in action.

Mutual respect

The leaflet distributed in Hebron over the weekend depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran is, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu so rightly said, "an abominable and despicable attack on Islam."

Both Netanyahu and Weizman went out of their way—the prime minister even telephoned Mustafa Natshe, the mayor of Hebron—to express their revulsion at the leaflet and to insist that the caricature ran counter to the Jewish people's respect for Islam in particular, and other world religions in general.

Even the Jewish community in Hebron denounced the poster. Indeed, this Jewish community should know better than any other that if Jews and Arabs are to live together in this region, regardless of who has sovereignty over whom, respect for one another's religion is a sine qua non.

As Weizman pointed out, there is no telling the extent of the damage this leaflet could cause Israel in the Arab world, where the protests have already begun, and with the Islamic Movement

in Israel leading the outcry.

However, it must not be forgotten that this crude and disgusting leaflet was apparently the work of a single horrendously misguided young woman. In contrast, the Palestinian Authority, through its Information Ministry Internet site, is perpetuating an official slander of the Jewish religion.

In its section on the most distinctive religious sites in Jerusalem, the Western Wall (which the PA says "is called by Jews the 'Wailing Wall,'") is described as follows: "Some Orthodox religious Jews consider it as a holy place, and claim that the wall is part of their temple, which all historic studies and archeological excavations have failed to find any proof for such a claim.

Two wrongs do not make a right. Israel's judicial system will deal with the person responsible for the anti-Islam leaflet, but the PA has shown no sign it intends to clean up its reprehensible portrayal of matters sacred to the Jewish people.

06/30/97

M-M-M. DELICIOUS!



Tip for the top

SHULAMITH MARCUS GÜNDERS

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak plans to send a team of experts to Britain to learn the secret of Prime Minister Tony Blair's success. (The Jerusalem Post, June 17)

Well, I can save Ehud Barak and the Labor Party a lot of trouble and expense. Tony Blair won the election on account of his name—b'ezra hashem, you might say—or rather on account of his nickname. (I don't know if he was actually christened Tony, but it really doesn't matter. It sounds like a nickname, and that's the important thing.)

A brief historical survey shows that virtually every time a candidate known by a nickname ran against one known by his formal name (like John Major), the candidate with the nickname won.

The earliest case I can recall is Teddy Roosevelt. Then there was Harry Truman. Actually Truman was named "Harry." But it sounds like a nickname. In fact, it's a common nickname for Harold.

Probably the most famous politician with a nickname was Gen. "Ike" Eisenhower. He claimed his mother named him Dwight because she didn't like nicknames.

Older Americans will remember the large campaign buttons that read "I like Ike." And I recall the huge crowds of (presumably intelligent) students in Harvard Square screaming "We like Ike!" "We like Ike!" as Eisenhower's motorcade went by. No doubt they were all quite hoarse next day.

More recent examples: Ronny Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and, of course, Bibi Netanyahu.

A candidate sporting a nickname elicits surprising warmth from the populace, even from

Tony, Bibi and... Ehud. No, it won't do: Barak needs a nickname, fast

people who don't as a rule have much time for politicians.

I suspect, moreover, that the electorate is inclined to look more forgivingly upon the peccadilloes of a Bill or a Bibi than a William Jefferson or a Benjamin.

It must have something to do with that old saying, "Boys will be boys."

So Ehud needn't trouble to send over any team to analyze Tony's success. What he does need, and urgently, is a group of whiz kids from the advertising world to put their heads together and pick him a nickname.

There's plenty of time to popularize it before the next elections.

REGRETTABLY, Ehud Barak doesn't immediately suggest a catchy nickname; but let's persevere.

It isn't generally known what Ehud's mom called him when he was a baby, or how he called himself. Bibi has proved that an infantile nickname is not necessarily a hindrance, perhaps even the opposite. So that's one avenue to pursue.

Does Barak's wife use a pet name that could propel her man to the premiership? What do Barak's close friends call him? "Hoodie" is a possibility—but it sounds too much like a gangster.

Barak could, of course, consider initials. FDR and JFK did quite well with them. Even the late, much-revered Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik of Boston was affectionately referred to as J.B. by his students.

So how about E.B. (reminiscent of E.T., who was loved by all)? Or could what we're looking for lie in Barak's military career? I have always suspected that "Stonewall" Jackson, the famous American Civil War general, owes his place in history more to his nickname than to his brave stand.

The newspaper report mentioned that Barak was considering changing the Labor Party's name. No need; changing its leader's name is quite sufficient.

Finally, a word of caution: There is something worse than having no nickname, and that is having one bestowed on you by your enemies. Remember "Bricky Dick"?

So Barak would be wise to ponder how he wants to be characterized, and come up with an appropriate nickname, fast.

After that, provided he's picked a winner, the way to the top should be a breeze.

The writer is a senior lecturer in anthropology at Bar-Ilan University.

Who's an inciter?

P. DAVID HORNIK

Incitement has become a charged word in Israeli political life. Our public discourse now centers largely on questions like: What constitutes incitement? Who's inciting against whom?

Does the slogan "Stop the Haredim" qualify as incitement? Did the Right incite Yigal Amir to assassinate Yitzhak Rabin? Was Avigdor Lieberman, director of the Prime Minister's Office, responsible for last week's nasty roadside banners vilifying Communications Minister Limor Livnat?

In this atmosphere, it's no surprise that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his challenger Ehud Barak—two intelligent and sophisticated men—have sunk to the lowest level of mutual mudslinging rather than debating the issues in any dignified manner.

While the nation was busy with questions of interecine incitement, Ma'ariv ran an article by Nadav Ha'etzi last Friday called "Listen to What's Happening on Voice of Palestine," focusing on a different kind of incitement.

Here's a sample: "The situation in Hebron and Rafiah is explosive, the occupation is shooting at men, women, and children." [Insert: voice of a Hebron woman:] "My daughter is innocent... our enemies have no mercy and no heart... they shot her in the stomach... I went crazy when I heard that her organs spilled out. [The Israelis'] hearts are like rocks, they're not human beings... they're like animals."

That segment was broadcast last Tuesday on Voice of Palestine, A.M. frequency 675 (formerly Voice of Israel in Arabic). It was not an exception, but typical of Voice of Palestine's broadcasts over the past few weeks.

From the preceding Saturday: "[Noise of sirens] The occupation forces resumed firing against

innocent civilians in the center of Hebron... A group [of soldiers] burst into a house... they broke down the door with iron bars and set up a snipers' nest on the roof, from which the firing continues up to this moment.

From the vegetable market this morning a group of settler-terrorist gangs threw stones at offices of the Hebron Waik and of the Old City Renovation [Authority]."

How's that for incitement—or

Depressed about hate-mongering at home? Try tuning into the Voice of Palestine

defamation, or hate-mongering, or whatever you want to call it? Needless to say, Channels 1 and 2, those fearless guardians of the public's right to know, didn't find any of this newsworthy; nor, for that matter, did our "hardline," "nationalist" government.

CONGRESS'S recent vote overwhelmingly in favor of recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital received praise from the Israeli Right, uncomfortable silence from the Left—and a quite different reaction from the Palestinians.

From Voice of Palestine, that same Saturday: "Representatives of all the swarms participated in today's mass gathering [in Nablus] to protest Congress's resolution, and expressed opposition to all American and Israeli attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and take over our holy sites. The demonstrators cried: 'In passion and blood we will redeem Jerusalem!'"

As Ha'etzi points out, the hate-mongering is not limited to the Voice of Palestine.

Over the past weeks, Palestinian newspapers have featured stories accusing Israel of infiltrating the territories with aphrodisiac gum (to turn Palestinian women into prostitutes who can then be recruited into the General Security Services); Israeli prostitutes infected with AIDS (to spread the disease among the populace); and spoiled food (to poison those Palestinians who haven't yet succumbed to AIDS).

Behind it all lies growing popular resentment against the corrupt and inefficient Palestinian Authority—which the PA seeks to deflect by channeling popular wrath toward a more convenient enemy.

The immediate result has been the Palestinian violence in Hebron and against the settlement of Moring in Gaza.

The longer-term result can only be the intensifying of hatred and aggression.

But while people in Nablus chant "In passion and blood we will redeem Jerusalem," in Jerusalem itself it's business as usual—name-calling, backbiting, charges and countercharges of incitement.

Sadder of all was last week's spectacle in the Knesset.

Barak, in his speech, expressed the usual canard of the Left: Conflict with the Arabs is caused by the Israeli government.

But all Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, the representative of that government—from which many of us expected so much better—could come up with in reply was a scoundrelous attack on Barak himself, based on a single newspaper story.

In Hebron, Nablus and Gaza, the war drums beat on.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

When saying sorry is bad

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Several members of Congress have proposed and President Clinton is considering issuing an apology to African Americans for slavery.

Jesse Jackson, who risked his life in the 1960s for something sturdier than words, namely abolition of America's racial caste system, offered this assessment of the idea:

"It's not dumb, but it's not a good thing. It has no substantive value to it."

Jackson is being kind. At a time when Americans face real problems of racial balkanization and intergenerational poverty, to create an issue that, at best, will produce an empty gesture and, at worst, yet another, totally gratuitous, source of friction between the races is indeed dumb.

Why is an apology bad? Because it fundamentally misconstrues how one rights a wrong. Apology is the easiest way out of a wrong. Which is why it is now such a practiced part of the repertoire of the public figure of the '90s.

Caught sucking the toes of a woman not your wife? Broke every campaign law on the books? No problem. Say you're sorry, then move on.

We have to repair to history, to presidents steeped in a deeper sense of morality, to find the full measure of what righting a wrong entails. Lincoln spoke movingly of the transcendent meaning of the bloody Civil War that saved the Union and freed the slaves. He spoke of the war continuing "if God wills... until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword." He saw the agony of the war for what it was: divine justice, retribution, making whole through

merely stand on the shoulders of giants. We are heirs to the struggles and sacrifices of past generations. It is not our prize to give.

THE timing of this apology is also blind to the present. Consider this assessment of US race relations: "America, while still flawed in its race relations... is now the least racist white-majority society in the world. This does not mean we have reached some Platonic ideal, but it does mean that we might acknowledge how far we have come: from the slavery of a century and a half ago to the segregation of 50 years ago to today's most racially tolerant white-majority nation on the planet."

Only a perverse combination of racial preening and racial self-flagellation could lead one, now, to raise the issue of a national apology for a sin long abolished and atoned. What we need now is a celebration of Americans' extraordinary racial advances, pressing ahead to the full eradication of racism and race consciousness from American life.

Why Americans shouldn't apologize to African Americans for slavery

already went far beyond apology to atonement—in the 1860s, when 350,000 Union soldiers (and 250,000 Confederates) died for our sins. And we presume to improve upon their sacrifice with a cheap, cost-free apology?

Apology implies a question gone unaddressed. It might thus be needed in a country in which slavery simply gradually disappeared over time, or ended with a slave uprising and surrender by the slavemasters.

But in America it ended differently. It ended as a result of a self-conscious, self-sacrificial act on the part of a white majority led by a white president who knew all too well its cost and its meaning.

And an apology issued in the 1990s does not just reach across the Civil War. It reaches across the other great struggle for black liberation, the civil rights movement, to claim for our generation the crown of "closure" on the nation's most grievous sin.

Our generation? We Americans

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISABLED

Sir, - I have been struggling to survive on a poverty-level National Insurance pension since becoming disabled and dependent on the state eight years ago. No longer well enough or strong enough to take the resulting hardships in stride, however, I found myself sufficiently distraught recently to actually call a member of the Knesset for help. I turned to a leading activist in such issues, Yael Dayan.

When the phone in Yael Dayan's office was answered, I was told that no matter how distraught, I could not leave my name and number, that Ms. Dayan was much "too busy" to speak to people on the phone, and "if you want our help with something, you will have to write us a letter."

The sad fact is, I have spent six years writing countless just such letters to countless just such busy lawmakers, and the only help I've

received is a drawer full of empty promises, lame excuses, brush-offs, and bureaucratic buck-passing.

Discrepancies in existing National Insurance laws are causing people like me to suffer needless want. They provide a disabled Israeli who has no other source of income with a poverty-level pension that is presently less than NIS 1,300 per month after KupaT Holim deductions.

Under those same laws, we are ineligible for the crucial subsistence aid provided to able-bodied low-income and senior citizens, such as income supplements, television license fee and arnona exemptions, 50 percent discounts on medications, etc.

The ease with which the nation's lawmakers ignore this issue is unconscionable.

ARLENE COHEN Haifa.

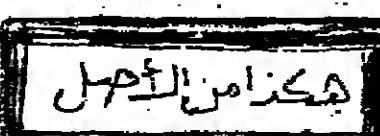
INVALID COMPARISON

Sir, - Stephen Flatow ("From Ayyash to McVeigh," June 20) may be correct in his assessment that executing Timothy McVeigh will create a martyr and that he should therefore be kept in an American prison for the rest of his days.

But the comparison with terrorists here is invalid. There is no chance that the US government would ever release him in exchange for some terrorist concession, peace process or what have you. And given that, there is also a very low probability that US terror groups would take hostages for the purpose of negotiating McVeigh's release.

I am not condoning execution here, but in cases such as Ayyash or terrorists killed in action, death is not to be rejected just to prevent martyrdom.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ Elazar.



7 The Jerusalem Post
Tip for the top
SHULAMITH MARCUS GUNDER
Labor Party leader Ehud Barak...

Tony, Bibi and Ehud. No, it was do: Barak needs nickname, he



Emanuel: "You don't work this many hours just to come to work. You work because you believe that what President Clinton's trying to do is significant."

The view from the top

Rahm Emanuel, US President Bill Clinton's senior adviser and one of the most powerful people in the administration, is fretting as we begin our conversation.

President Clinton's senior adviser was especially moved by the Israeli-Palestinian signing ceremony he helped arrange. After all, Rahm Emanuel comes from an Israeli household. Hillie Kuttler meets the president's righthand man

envoy Dennis Ross's efforts but offers little else. "You're not going to get me to comment on current events... We're committed to the process that was set up, which is to see through the Oslo agreements and further develop the peace process."

EMANUEL IS jumpy. During the 20-minute interview, he shifts around in his chair, steps over to a pile of magazines and flips through Rolling Stone and Roll Call; stands beside his desk and fiddles with his beeper; glides over to chat with his secretary; hugs a female visitor; keeps one eye on the small television carrying a CNN report of a chemical factory explosion in Clinton's native Arkansas; takes a few phone calls, and tells an

"I've always said the [CNN] show Crossfire was based on our dinner table"

assistant to check up on the juvenile crime bill coming up for a House vote.

"You can see I feel like I'm going to the dentist while I'm sitting here talking," he says. And this is with the president away in Latin America for the week. Emanuel stays behind because he thinks he can get more work done - not that those in the Clinton delegation aren't being productive, he quickly adds. And he hates to travel. Emanuel has accompanied Clinton on just five trips in more than four years. Two were to Israel: for the Arava signing of the peace treaty with Jordan and for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral.

The Middle East, and foreign affairs generally, do not consume a large chunk of his time. But when Emanuel has had his hand in matters relating to the region, it's been big. He helped orchestrate the September 13, 1993, signing of the Declaration of Principles and arranged the presidential delegation to Rabin's funeral. "Without a doubt," says Emanuel, when asked whether the South Lawn ceremony held personal meaning to him because of his family's roots. Emanuel, who plotted out everything from the schedule to the choreography to the speeches that September day, ranks it among the bright lights of his tenure with the administration.

During arrangements for both the signing and the funeral, Emanuel worked closely with then-ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich. Rabinovich often looked to Emanuel and other White House officials for insight into matters like the budget and welfare policies that are seemingly unrelated to the Middle East. The two became friends, occasionally dining and going to movies together.

There is "not always a distinction between domestic and foreign affairs," Rabinovich says, explaining that he relied on Emanuel's perspective to understand the "political considerations that foreign policy decisions would have," such as the Jordanian debt-relief episode that dragged on from 1994 into 1995, after Republicans took over Congress.

What has perhaps gained Emanuel the greatest admiration in Jerusalem was his coming to the country during the Gulf War to volunteer at a supply base near Kiryat Shlomo. He did menial work at the base, separating tank brakes from jeep brakes from truck brakes.

He downsplays the trip, saying it was not a sacrifice, merely "something I wanted to do." Wilhelm and Peter Giangreco, another former colleague, saw it otherwise. Along with Emanuel, they were heavily involved in Daley's 1991 mayoral run. When Emanuel left for Israel in the midst of the campaign, they fully understood his motivation. "Rahmi doesn't just, in the old cliché, talk the talk," says Giangreco. "Here's a guy, who during a very, very, very important campaign to him and the city, said there's something bigger here. He takes loyalty and duty, and his beliefs, very seriously."

THE EMANUEL home in the Chicago suburb of Wilmette was a place that one could imagine would produce a political junkie and policymaker. Marsha Emanuel was involved in the civil rights movement, as well as in local politics, working for the House runs of Abner Mikva and Sidney Yates.

"The kids all knew that. They went to meetings with me," she says of Rahm and her other sons, Ariel, a co-owner of a Los Angeles talent agency, and Ezekiel, an oncologist. "You work for people you believe in. You get involved in issues you believe in. That was the message the children got: You fulfill your ideals."

"At my house, you had to be ready for dinner conversations, in

the sense of having read the paper, being up on the news, etc. - current events," Rahm says. "I've always said the [CNN] show Crossfire was based on our dinner table." Israel was often a topic of discussion, especially when the Middle East was in the news.

The young Rahm also vacationed regularly in Israel with his family. And his *avvta*, Benjamin's mother, lived with the Emanuels for seven years.

Then there was Benjamin's brother Manuel - "Uncle Manny" - about whom Rahm knows "very little." He was killed in Israel in 1938, and in his memory Rahm's grandfather changed the family name from Auerbach to Emanuel. "Obviously, all that intensity could have [had] a negative impact," Rahm Emanuel says of

"I love politics. I don't think it's a dirty word. I think it's an honorable profession."

the trips and the discussions and the history. "It had a positive one."

EMANUEL INHERITED the key adviser's position when George Stephanopoulos left at the end of the first Clinton administration. It was a promotion that by all accounts he deserved, but it also illustrated how far he rebounded from being booted out as political director soon after Clinton assumed office in 1993.

Instead, he was made special projects coordinator - a post created especially for him - and in which Emanuel made his mark. He was the key administration official involved in pushing through such Clinton policy goals as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the assault weapons ban, the Brady handgun bill, the crime bill, and immigration and welfare reform.

Those who have dealt with him in various work settings say that while Emanuel is tough and sometimes insufferably brash, few are more driven.

"I've seen a change in the last three years in Rahm. No doubt he doesn't shy from letting his opinions be known and at times has been a little rough in the way he treats people," says Secretary of Commerce William Daley, who worked with Emanuel on his brother Richard Daley's mayoral

campaign.

"He's more confident in his White House position. There's a little more listening. Rahm is a hard-working person and thinks everyone else should be. Sometimes people take it the wrong way."

Emanuel is devoted to Clinton. He says he dove into those initiatives because of his firm identification with the president's course of action.

"Listen, I would not work in another person's administration," he says. "You don't work these many hours just to come to work. You work because you, I believe that what President Clinton's trying to do is significant. I have to have that kind of emotional energy to get me through every day."

"I put in pretty extensive hours, and you're not gonna do it just for the win-loss record. You're gonna do it because you believe in what you're doing. President Clinton - he calls the shots. But in the broad architecture of his policy, I have a fundamental commitment to his vision. And unless you have that, I can't imagine doing what you do here. You need that psychic energy to get through day after day, seven days a week, 12-hour days, six years of it. And I think he's making a tremendous difference in this country."

Wilhelm tells of having Emanuel come up to Harvard University as a guest lecturer for a course he taught last year. Emanuel provoked a debate when he said he doesn't believe in moral victories, only in victory victories. "It captures who he is," says Wilhelm. "You want to have Rahm in the foxhole next to you, and out against you."

GIANGRECO RECALLS Richard Phelan's 1990 campaign for Cook County (Illinois) board president. Phelan was running out of money and the strategists had to weigh cutting back on spending for television advertisements versus continuing the promotions and expending the budget too soon. "Rahm said the right answer was to stay on the air but to borrow money because it would be stupid to not keep running ads. In other words, Choice C," says Giangreco.

"Clearly, Rahm's decision to put it all on the line speaks as to who Rahm is - very aggressive. He understands when you have an advantage, you never stop working; when you're down, you never let up."

Emanuel and his wife Amy Rule belong to a Conservative congregation in Virginia and have a two-month-old son. Despite his intense responsibilities, Emanuel finds time to take ballet lessons twice a week. He is a serious dancer who once considered performing professionally.

"He has a passion for public policy and politics. He's very passionate about everything he does [including] ballet," says Giangreco. "He does nothing half-speed."

Not Page One
Save 'IBA News' - or else!
By Sam Orbaum

A few weeks before The Assassination, Yitzhak Rabin was speaking at The Event, a Jerusalem Post-co-organized happening at Wingate Institute. Rabin's appearance became an event unto itself: to the shock of many, he was booed and jeered and heckled by that most democratic and temperate sector: us. Later that day, he dismissed the experience with a disdainful flick of his hand. "Ah, who cares," he said, "they're just a bunch of Americans."

There's another benefit to kicking up a stink: to show the authorities that the next time they think of tweaking the Anglo nose, they may face some resistance.

for dropping litter in the streets, pawing bread in the supermarkets, smoking where prohibited.

When the English-speakers get mad, the Knesset shrugs. Ruby Ray Karzen, chairwoman for AACT's Jerusalem region, doesn't need much time to formulate a response to the charge of influential ineptitude. Putting together forefinger-tip to thumb, she could be saying either "delicious!" in Italian or "phht!" in American. It is the latter.

"Zilch," she says. "The politicians don't really care about us. It's not as if we could put together a bloc in the Knesset."

"The attitude is that American Jews are wonderful - in America," adds her husband, Rabbi Jay Karzen.

AACT - for you baffled tourists, that's the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel - is testing community muscle with a petition to save IBA News and English-language radio. Never mind that IBA News was recently revived (again).

"We don't want a reprieve so that every three and four years [it comes up again], and we have to waste time and effort showing the powers that be the error of their thinking," says Ruby.

They've already collected some 6,000-7,000 names. AACT is giving it one more big push - tomorrow at the "July 4th" picnic in Jerusalem's Sacher Park - before they present the petition to Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Really now, who are we kidding? They're letting us listen to "a bunch of Americans?"

Ruby doesn't think the effort will change "the government's low opinion" of IBA News, but without making a lot of noise about it, the program is as good as doomed.

There's another benefit to kicking up a stink: to show the author-

ities that the next time they think of tweaking the Anglo nose, they may face some resistance.

In fact, we haven't been total shlemiels. Ruby points out. "The best achievement to our credit was the changing of the electoral system," which AACT can claim to have largely instigated.

And we can all take chauvinistic pride in the recognizable accent of many of the Women in Green: I mean, never mind your political bent - jeez, they're one of us!

AACT has become feistier in recent years, adopting activism without compromising its apoliticalism. It has ballooned to 15,000 household-members (half of them in the Jerusalem region), and claims credit for stimulating aliya from North America, which now totals about 140,000. "It used to be, back in the first half of the 1970s, that 70 percent of

North American immigrants went back; now, 70 percent remain in Israel," Ruby says.

"The Jewish Agency told us that AACT is the reason."

AACT has begun a new venture that so far has been a resounding success. Job Net, an Internet site that brings together Israeli employers and Diaspora job-seekers, lists some 270 jobs. Job Net has already rung up 100,000 "hits" in its first three weeks.

If they got that many hits on their petition, they could demand IBA News be moved to prime time.

Let's show 'em: y'all get out tomorrow and sign your John Hancock to a petition. And if that doesn't work, then dammit, we'll start a hunger strike, throw dirty diapers at policemen, burn tires, block traffic, threaten, coerce, boycott, blackmail...

Sez You!
Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu: I think you should contribute to a future Not Page One and at the same time, tell the PM a thing or two. (But of course he's going to read this!)

THE PALESTINIANS BETWEEN TERRORISM AND STATEHOOD...

Pinhas Inbar's book provides an in-depth account of the current Israel-Palestinian peace process, including developments in the Israeli-occupied territories, and the internal struggles within the PLO and between the PLO and its adversaries. Softcover, 258 pp. JP Price NIS 95 incl. VAT, p&h in Israel.

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DRIVE SLOWER! DRIVE WITH CARE!

A twin reunion

By SHAI TSUR

Sometimes it can take years for a film to reach its audience. German director, producer, screenwriter and cinematographer Joseph Vilsmaier had to get personally involved in the distribution of his latest movie, *Charlie and Louise* to ensure it was showcased. The film, dubbed into English, opened here this week.

Vilsmaier is best known for his 1993 anti-war epic *Stalingrad* and for 1995's *Brother of Sleep*, a dark magical realist parable. His 1993 film *Charlie and Louise* has seen a slow international release because of the ever-growing presence of the major American studios leaving many independent German directors and producers with problems distributing their films.

Based on Erich Kastner's *The Lottchen Twins* (a popular children's book locally known by its Hebrew title *Ora Hakefula*), Vilsmaier's film is a change in tone and subject matter from his darker work.

Charlie and Louise is the second German film adaptation of *The Lottchen Twins*. The story is a familiar one, similar to that in Disney's *The Parent Trap*.

Charlie and Louise are twin sisters, separated at infancy when their parents divorced. Charlie, the

tomboy, grows up in Berlin with her father, a struggling musician. Meanwhile, Louise, introverted and serious, is raised in Hamburg with her mother, an advertising executive. Neither sister knows of the existence of the other.

The two meet by chance at a summer school in Scotland and soon figure out that they are sisters. At school, they easily pass for each other. Curious to meet the respective parent they do not remember, Charlie and Louise decide to switch identities and homes. This ruse works despite the dissimilarity in their characters, and they soon devise another plan to try and get their parents back together again.

Despite a fairly slight subject matter, the film gets some heft from the relationship between the twins. In this, actresses Fritzi and Flori Eichhorn can take the credit. The two show a real screen chemistry, made up of understandably genuine mannerisms and knowing glances.

The film also benefits from Vilsmaier's talent as a cameraman. Vilsmaier has an eye for sweeping shots, and the Scottish countryside, which provides the backdrop for half the movie, provides the ideal subject.

And working now as a distributor too, Vilsmaier has become the jack-of-all-trades of the German film industry.



A touch of class: Neshot Hava (Eve's Women), featuring Yael Cohen (standing) and, from left, Orit Orbach, Michal Aizen and Daphna Sadeh (Yossi Zwickler)

School by day, ghosts by night

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Maya Kasir probably never thought that she would be spending her evenings in such ghostly surroundings. But the 15-year-old Jerusalemite is now singing in an event in which the great literary figures (including Haim Nahman Bialik and Shaul Tchernichovsky) and historical figures (such as Haim Arlosoroff and Meir Dizengoff) of our nation come alive.

Kasir and five friends, all singers like herself, get together to perform composer Oded Zehavi's haunting arrangements to classic Bialik songs which accompany Eldad Ziv's new theatrical hit *A Matter of Life and Death*, at Hahimah.

This is the first time Kasir is actually appearing in a play, although she has sung on stage numerous times as a soloist.

Kasir, who will start grade 11 in the fall at the high school of the Jerusalem Music Academy, has been singing from grade four. "I always loved singing. I used to sing in the shower and then my mother saw that the Ankor Children's Choir was searching for new children. She took me to the auditions, and I was accepted."

It was during her Ankor days that Kasir met Zehavi for the first time. "He wrote a piece for the choir titled *Rainbow*, and I was given a solo in it. After that, he asked me to record his music for

two feature films."

Zehavi himself, currently one of Israel's most prolific and fruitful composers, has nothing but compliments for Kasir. "She has a beautiful voice and she can really thrill and excite you with her singing. She has this amazing directness in her expression which I hope will not disappear as she grows up. And I sincerely hope she continues singing in the future too."

Kasir, however, is not willing to commit herself yet. "I enjoy what I'm doing and it's fun to earn money while I'm still in school."

"If at one point I become sure that music and singing are the center of my life, then I will start inquiring about the possibilities of studying abroad. But I'm not sure yet."

Kasir is anything but a total musician who shuts herself off from the outside world. "I played the piano for nine years, but stopped because it was too much for me with matriculation exams coming up. My teacher demanded a lot from me. She thought the piano should have come first in my life, but I had different things too."

She admits that her marks in school have suffered over the last few months because of the play. "It's tiring to go almost every night and perform in Tel Aviv, but I enjoy it and it gives me a lot of experience. And no, don't worry, I'm a good student in school, so I do manage."

Klezmer means Safed

By HELEN KAYE

The Safed Klezmer Festival has become an institution, the nice kind, and its fans expect their yearly dose of Jewish soul music from their favorite musicians. They'll get it when the 10th Safed Klezmer Festival gets under way between July 14 and 16, from such as violinist Mirel Reznik, clarinetists Israel Zohar, Monssa Berlin and Giora Feldman, and flutist Avi Piamenta. Dudu Fisher will be the headlin-

er at the gala concert in the Yigal Allon Auditorium on the last day and there'll be a special anniversary concert with most of the above performers that same evening towards midnight. There'll be a new look at biblical chanting with Roman Kuntzman and a reprise of Dan Almogor's perennial favorite *Once There Was a Hassid*.

New faces at the festival this year include Neshot Hava (Eve's Women), four women who give Hassidic music a multicultural

tweak, and some visitors from abroad. They are the Nunu jazz klezmers and Karsten Troike from Germany, Klezroyim, the first Italian klezmer group, and Simcha from Russia, the fruit of perestroika playing old songs from Russian Jewry that had nearly disappeared.

Most of the events are free in and about the alleysways of the old city, and about 50,000 people are expected. Cars park outside and there are shuttle buses to the festival site. Allow extra time to get there if you drive.

IN TUNE

Teenage sensation

By DAVID BRINN

Every generation puts its heroes on the pop charts. Paul Simon sang in 1986. And those words ring true every time I put on Hanson's debut, *Middle of Nowhere*, and see my kids go crazy.

Which is encouraging, because given the teenybopper constraints put on pre-pubescent musicians, Hanson is pretty fine pop.

Three American brothers - long, blond-haired, cute and aged 16, 14 and 11. Need I say more? The fact that they, or at least their producers, are so proficient in only icing on the cake. Funk-inflected rave-ups and some nifty straight-ahead rock & roll jostle for space with the moderately annoying hit single "MMMBop."



The brothers Hanson: Younger than - and probably as pretty as - the Spice Girls

- MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
Hanson
(Helicon)
- DESTINATION ANYWHERE
Jon Bon Jovi
(Helicon)
- THE BEST OF
Bob Dylan
(NMC)

Credited with playing guitar, drums and keyboards along with a list of studio pros, and taking songwriting credits with help from hit factory stalwarts like Desmond Child, Mark Hudson and Barry Mann, it's unclear how much the brothers contributed themselves.

But, they're already a step up on The Monkees, and send the Spice Girls straight back to the minor leagues.

Roll over Beethoven and tell David Cassidy the news.

BON JOVI has always been one of rock's slightest bands, appealing to the lowest common denominator, combining facile guitar riffs with bombastic, mane work-

ing-class odes to girls and cars. Naturally, they've sold millions.

Therefore, Jon Bon Jovi's solo album, *Destination Anywhere*, can only be seen as a triumph, or at least an awakening of the spirit.

Much like when manufactured pop star John Cougar began to shed his "cool" persona on his way to becoming soul-bearing and introspective John Mellencamp, Bon Jovi puts his childish games away, puts his "hair band" image away, relaxes, and offers up a dozen likable shots of heartland rock.

There's nothing here that Mellencamp, or for that matter Bruce Springsteen, hasn't done years earlier. But since both have abandoned the style for greener pastures, Bon Jovi picks it up like a comfortable old pair of jeans. Maybe there's still hope for Bryan Adams.

PERHAPS it was the death-rattle

sound of cash registers ringing caused by Bob Dylan's recent health problems, but this haphazard 18-song collection looks like it was put together at minimum notice.

The choices aren't bad, covering the prerequisites from early in his career, and the one selection per album beginning with *John Wesley Harding* is pretty much on the money ("Tangled Up in Blue" from *Blood on the Tracks*, "Jokerman" from *Infidels*).

It's got some of the most important Dylan songs, but strung together without any narrative or context.

You never get a feeling of why they were important, and it never explains how he got from "The Times They Are A-Changin'" in 1962 to "Everything is Broken" in 1988.

Recommended if you want the hirth without having to go through the labor pains.

REVIEWS

in brief

Theater

The Reduced Shakespeare Company's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* played to a nearly sold-out audience at the Jerusalem Theater on Saturday night.

This London-based comedy troupe, made up of Chris Mellon, Matthew Rippy and Ross MacKenzie, put on a fast-paced, audience-engaging, animated 97-minute show.

A castle with two arch entrances/exits served as a modest backdrop, focusing the audience's attention on the three actors capering about energetically in yellow, red and black dance tights. To bring the audience into closer contact with the actors, director Adam Long at times had the actors play from the perspective of the audience on the seats facing the stage.

The audience was in stitches from Mellon's introductory skit right through to the end of the show when the three perform the abridged-abridged version of Hamlet - backwards.

The highlight of the first half of the show was the third skit of the night which has all of Shakespeare's 16 comedies meshed into one. The original script was made even funnier by the RSC's comical lines. Their improvisation and ad-libbing tailored the show to the Israeli audience with jokes about Ophelia's Pelephone, and Rippy's impatience.

This production is not for purists. If Shakespeare were to have seen this version of his works, he would have been clueless about the many pop-culture references including those to the Spice Girls and Michael Jackson.

Viva Press

Yoshe Kalb, in typical L.J. Singer style, is a gripping play which despite its shtetl setting remains eternally fresh.

The hero of the tale, a young student of the Zohar, is unfortunately too appealing to women and punishes himself and his nearest and dearest by becoming a 15-year nomad.

Itzik Atzmon, in the title role, was perhaps the only weak link in what was otherwise Yiddishspiel's most powerful production to date. Tracy Abramovitch, as the mentally and physically impaired, gang-raped and pregnant Tzivia, who wants to marry him, gave a most convincing performance and was undoubtedly the female star of the show.

Karol Markovitch, as Reb Melech, Yoshe Kalb's father-in-law, was cast in the most prominent role, and though he acted well, he was definitely upstaged by Israel Treistman, who played the part of his lackey, and Shmuel Hillman, whose interpretation of the Rabbi of Karkov was a masterful exercise in dignity.

Greer Fay Cashman

Opera

One of the main heroes in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, in the New Israeli Opera's revival, was the set by Ruth Dar. Designed in admirably good taste, it featured drunk sunflowers, descending and ascending parachutes, an approaching and withdrawing sports car, a Middle-Eastern instead of Italian scenery, shadow play, slides and, above all, perpetual motion of the inanimates.

Omri Nitzan's direction was also innovative, resourceful, coarsely naughty, and maintained a delightful light touch.

Most outstanding among the singers was tenor Raul Gimenez, as Nemorino. His abundance of dynamic nuances and communicative personality make him a perfectly passionate lover.

Alexandrina Pendatchanska might be an impressive dramatic soprano, but she is too dramatic for the role of Adina.

It took Donato Di Stefano, as Dulcamara, until Act II to warm up. And if John Hancock's baritone, as Belcore, had sounded as good as his figure was good-looking, there would have been no cause for disappointment.

The NIO Chorus sounded lively and contributed substantially to the exuberant countryside atmosphere.

The Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion, conducted by Jonathan Webb, sounded somewhat tired and listless.

Ury Eppstein

Concerts: Classical

In its end-of-season concert, it seemed as if the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, conducted by David Shallon, endeavored to pay its debts to Richard Strauss that had accumulated throughout the years in which his work had not been performed here.

Starting with one of his early pieces, Zagreb-born Radovan Vlatkovic played the melodious, light-hearted Horn Concerto No. 1 with uncommon smoothness and roundness of sound.

Strauss's last work, his *Vier Letzte Lieder*, was performed with profound comprehension and emotional intensity by American soprano Camellia Johnson. The impact of her clear, pure voice and her empathy in expressing the songs' spirit made her rendition a moving experience.

In the *Alpine Symphony*, the orchestra released vast masses of sound, perfectly balanced, and also featured delicate solo episodes. The performance made one marvel at the composer's masterful command of his orchestral forces and rich instrumental colors.

Ury Eppstein

The Hillel Hebrew University Orchestra's seasonal concert, conducted by Anita Kamien, highlighted Mozart in choral, orchestral and solo works. The oratorio *Davidde Penitente* offered the Hebrew University Choir, reinforced by the Zamir Chorale and the Cantus Hassadna Choir, a comfortable opportunity to display its qualities.

The evening's pleasant vocal surprise was Shira Green, with her enchanting bright soprano and delightfully flexible, effortless coloratura.

Soprano Robin Weisel-Capsouto, though faithful to the oratorio style, sounded somewhat lackluster. William Weisel, a soft, enjoyable tenor, set an encouraging example for engineers who feel like switching over to a singing career. Richard Paley, in the Bassoon Concerto, sounded as if his cadenzas had been allotted more rehearsal time than the fast movements' main body.

The orchestra, consisting mostly of new immigrants, students and faculty members, sounded, in the "*Jupiter*" *Symphony*, like a volunteer group - well-trained, radiating freshness and involvement, and caring for the work's exuberant spirit more than for subtle details.

Ury Eppstein

Concert: Rock

A juggernaut of politics, raw energy, heart-thumping, metal-infused hip-hop and attitude, California's Rage Against the Machine has earned the reputation of being the world's most dangerous band.

"People of the Sun," the hit single from its 1996 sophomore success *Evil Empire*, opened the 90-minute show at Tel Aviv's Cinemas on Sunday, immediately throwing the crowd of mostly teenagers into a frenzy. A mosh pit - a living, breathing maelstrom of human bodies, pushing and pogoing for dear life - immediately swallowed me up from the front of the stage, only to spit me out seconds later near the safety of the sidelines.

Frontman/singer Zack De La Rocha's ranting raps, delivered in a machine-gun cadence, contrasting with Tom Morello's heavy-metal guitar licks, created a magnetic tension.

Highlights of the first set included the MTV hit "Balls on Parade" and a haunting rendition of "Roll Right," a song in which local politics is not spared De La Rocha's scrutiny, as he imagines himself taking on a violent West Bank settler.

The band encored with a series of songs from its self-titled debut. "Killing in the Name," perhaps the most emotional inciting anthem in rock's glorious, rebellious history, was nothing short of cathartic. I joined thousands of others cursing every elder, schoolteacher and boss who ever dared to cross my path.

Tracy Fish



If the crown fits...: DJ Carl Cox

Bop till you drop

Last year's 24-hour Dance and Lewis dance extravaganza was such a blast, they're gonna do it again with some of the top DJs and combos from here and abroad. This year's headliners are the French dance combo Daft Punk (which raced to the summit with *Homework*, its debut album), and the man billed as the Jimi Hendrix of the disc-jockey world - Carl Cox.

Other visiting DJs include Grooverider and Tony de Vit as well as MC Cleveland Watkins. The local DJ Zoo-B makes a return appearance, and there's Enerotopia, Nir Segal and Ronen Gutterman too. It's at Eshkol Park on July 7, starting at 6 p.m. and continuing well into the following day. Tickets cost NIS 115, or NIS 95 if you bring a pair of Levi's jeans.

Helen Kaye

הזמנת האוכל

Pump up the wattage

The jumbo neon advertisements of New York's Times Square are expanding westward

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

It would be reasonable to think that Times Square — already jam-packed with a superionic jet model as long as a real 737, plus a colossal soda bottle, soda can, noodle bowl, coffee cup, stock ticker, light switch, Queen's guard, relief map and several jumbo television screens — had just about run out of room for spectacular electric signs.

But who said reason had anything to do with Times Square? Landlords, retail tenants and national advertisers are scouring the Broadway and Seventh Avenue crossroads for more sign locations.

Developers, at the government's direction, are building enormous new advertising venues.

And the neon realm is poised for a dramatic expansion westward with the construction later this year of a 900-foot-long sign board wrapping the facade of the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Its developer, Transportation Displays Incorporated, or TDI, believes it will be the largest sign in the United States. The Port Authority's share of the revenues may reach \$2 million a year.

As signposts, buildings around Times Square have never been more valuable. The slender 93-year-old tower known as One Times Square is almost useless for offices but has been sold for about \$110 million, or \$1,000 a square foot — the highest price per square foot ever paid for a commercial building in New York. Owners could demand this incredible sum because of the building's conspicuous location at the crossroads. Today, a dozen signs hang from the 24-story structure.

One space on its own, which in 1976 leased for \$35,000 a year, now commands about \$2 million.

On the entertainment and retail complex known as E Walk, being planned by the Tishman Urban Development Corporation at 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue, supersigns may bring in annual gross revenues between \$5m, and \$7 m. TDI holds the 20-year master lease.

Numbers such as these have opened many eyes. Landlords who were once content to lease rooftops or facades to sign companies now demand a piece of the action, in a joint venture or a limited partnership.

National advertising concerns are also looking for a piece of the action. "There is a boom in Times Square," said Chris Carr, general manager of New York operations for Outdoor Systems of Phoenix, which acquired Van Wagner Communications last month. Van Wagner had 50 Times Square sign locations and was the successor to



the business founded by Douglas Leigh, the father of modern Times Square spectacles. Outdoor Systems paid \$170m.

Along with price tags, the signs themselves are scraping the sky. More than 700 feet above Broadway — that is, at twice the height of the Paramount Building — there are to be four enormous signboards atop Four Times Square, an office tower being developed by the Durst Organization on Broadway, between 42d and 43rd Streets. There is also to be a turreted corner at the base of the building that could be fashioned into a film roll or beverage can as high as the Statue of Liberty — minus her pedestal.

Advertising spectacles are even being certified as cultural icons by no less an authority than the New York Historical Society, which is preparing an exhibition called "Light Up the Sky: The Signs of Times Square." In November, the month that the exhibit is to open, the Paramount Building will reappear

in the nighttime firmament for the first time since World War II, when the 20-foot glass globe at its craggy summit is reilluminated.

"Does it enable them to raise rents?" asked George N. Stonbely, president of Spectacolor Communications, construction managers of the project. "Probably not. Does it enhance the value of the building? Absolutely yes." The giant clocks atop the tower will also glow again and a new sign will be built at the base of the building in the form of the marquee that once graced the Paramount Theater.

Even public transportation is getting into the act. A new entrance to the 42nd Street station is marked by the word "Subway" in sparkling letters six-feet high and illuminated discs designating the train lines below. It was designed by Fox & Fowle, architects of Four Times Square.

"We want people to be dazzled," said Charles A. Gargano, chairman of the Empire State Development Corp., which is

overseeing the redevelopment of 42nd Street, and vice-chairman of the Port Authority.

In the dazzle of this wattage, it is difficult to recall that Times Square supersigns were anathema not too long ago to planners, aesthetes and domestic advertisers. (Japanese companies like Canon, Fuji, Matsushita, Minolta and Sony kept the lights burning.) In the '80s, Fox & Fowle devised a rooftop sign and 38-story neon stripe for the Embassy Suites Hotel at 47th Street, but the owners did not want to pay for such extravagance. Jeffrey Katz, the developer of Two Times Square at 47th Street, was the only builder who openly embraced signage.

Today, owners regard supersign requirements as minimums, rather than maximums. "On those sites where the codes have established limits, developers and people in the advertising industry are all busy exceeding the limits," said Robert Kupiec of Kupiec Koutsomitis Architects, designers of the signs at the bus terminal, E Walk and Disney Store.

That is encouraged at Times Square is not always welcome elsewhere, however. A block-long, 12-story-high mural for TAG Heuer watches was rejected Tuesday by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The sign, designed by Enviroetics, was proposed for two blank walls of buildings that overlook a parking lot on the Avenue of the Americas, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, in the Ladies' Mile Historic District.

The north part of the sign would depict a male athlete hurdling over an oversized double-edged razor blade. The south part would contain the TAG Heuer name and a picture of a watch.

Advertising signs have long been painted on the sides of buildings and the commission has found such signs to be appropriate in certain contexts. But the chairman, Jennifer J. Raab, said the TAG Heuer sign "was so out of scale and large, coupled with its borderless design, that it detracted from the historic elements of the district." (New York Times)

Beyond Hong Kong

Shanghai's business is business

SHANGHAI, China (Los Angeles Times) — Zhou Zhengyi started his 17-year-old business as a struggling food shop owner, selling wonton noodles despite objections by family members who feared he was heading a politically dangerous "capitalist road." Today he drives a red Ferrari — if not one of his Mercedes. He wears Italian designer suits, lives in a \$1 million Hong Kong home, often uses the Hong Kong-style name Alex Chou and makes hundreds of thousands of dollars monthly — virtually risk-free — by skillfully exploiting the rules governing Chinese stocks.

Now that Hong Kong has been returned to Chinese sovereignty, the fortune of people such as Chou in Shanghai — which before China's 1949 communist revolution was East Asia's center of capitalism, glory and sin — reveals much about the likely future of the city's real estate ports.

Since there were fears that if the communists ever got control of Hong Kong, they would shut it down, but unfolding now in Shanghai is a frantic effort to replicate the former British colony's success.

"I hope some people practice what Shanghai will take over from Hong Kong's functions, but I don't think it will," said Shanghai Vice Mayor Zhao Qizheng, adding that he hopes to see Shanghai catch up to Hong Kong — but not surpass it — in about 10 years.

Businesses in cities of the Pacific — Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and others — are "like street lamps on the road," Zhao said. "The light of Hong Kong is shining on us. We are not just imitating Hong Kong, but we are learning from it." He said that after the communist takeover, many of his friends fled to Hong Kong, and he followed them.

Under Mao's orders, resources were drained from development in China's interior. As Shanghai stagnated, Hong Kong boomed.

But the past never quite disappeared. Generations of Shanghai children grew up seeing the grand old European-style buildings of the riverfront. Many of the city's founders of the power, this city once enjoyed, still called Shanghai "style."

Shanghai people tend to be opinionated, very opinionated, and kind of selfish. Weng Yilan, an MBA student at Tsinghua University, who came here from Beijing, said it is a Shanghai love affair. "I think Shanghai is a city to work so hard, and they want to learn new things. They want to be outstanding and want to be aggressive," she said.

But the new Shanghai, where people like Zhou, is not allowed not only to imitate but to imitate. "I don't think Shanghai can be a copy of Hong Kong," said Chou. "I think Shanghai can be a copy of New York." Chou said that Shanghai's success is not a copy of Hong Kong, but a copy of New York. "I think Shanghai can be a copy of New York," he said.

The Chinese government has poured billions into building the infrastructure of a new world-class financial and business center in the city's undeveloped Pudong area, just across the Huangpu River from the old downtown. Chinese and foreign investors have put in another \$1.3 billion.

And Pudong is to be a financial center, not a residential area. The city's government has set a goal of making Pudong a financial center by the year 2010.

"I think one has to accept that at some time in the future, there will be a very detailed possibility that Shanghai will become a major financial center," said Wang Jian, chairman of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd.

Yet Shanghai's growth explosion has not come without costs. Among the most serious is the relocation of 1 million people from convenient downtown areas, where most have lived for decades, to unfamiliar suburban apartment blocks. Spending the past few years, the city has

relocated a million people from downtown areas, where most have lived for decades, to unfamiliar suburban apartment blocks. Spending the past few years, the city has relocated a million people from downtown areas, where most have lived for decades, to unfamiliar suburban apartment blocks.

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prosperous residents no longer would endure forced relocation. Flooding protests have been tolerated only briefly, with police then firmly shutting them down.

"It's hard to make 100 percent of the people happy, but I believe 90 percent are happy," Vice Mayor Zhao said, defending the city's relocation methods. "We have many ways to encourage them to move. One is that the new houses are bigger and nicer. The schools in the new areas are better... There are more green areas..." Zhao added that it is "understandable" that shopkeepers are unhappy, because they may have fewer opportunities in their new locations. But he said the city sometimes helps people find jobs or offers business loans.

Job creation these days also comes from people like Zhou, the former wonton-noodle seller turned multimillionaire. He saved enough money from his noodle shop to go to Japan in 1982, ostensibly as a language student but really to work. He took a factory job and washed dishes in Tokyo, living cheaply and saving about \$20,000 in two years.

"I thought, 'Money is very important. If I don't have money, I'll lead a terrible life,'" Zhou recalled.

Back in China, Zhou started an interior design company, first in the Shenzhen special economic zone, just across the border from Hong Kong, then in Shanghai, where he decorated some of the city's fanciest buildings. He later branched out into a restaurant and other businesses.

Now, Zhou said, he employs more than 700 people. Chou, 34, owner of the Shanghai Gui Lin Fashion Co. and several other companies, has a few years' national style status. He has been named one of China's 100 most influential business leaders.

In 1983, graduates of Tsinghua University in Beijing, China's best university, Chou worked in the 1980s for a Japanese company in Shanghai, learning Japanese along the way. He started his own trading company in 1990, exporting locally made traditional Japanese items such as kimonos and the straw clogs used on the surface of many floor mats. He now aims to start importing used construction equipment to take advantage of Shanghai's building boom.

Both Zhou and Chou, along with many other less wealthy Shanghaiers, like to play the city's growing stock market.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange, now has 143 listed companies, with total market capitalization of about \$100 billion, nearly 25 percent that of Hong Kong's exchange.

The amount of the Shanghai Stock Exchange is to be one of the most "international" stock exchanges in the world, spokesmen said. But for at least the next 10 years, it will be a local exchange, will be a market for local companies, and will play a very important role to help State-owned enterprises change from a planned system to a market system.

A key economic trend in China, and a key economic trend in Pudong, is the growth of private enterprises. In the past few years, private enterprises have become a major force in the city's economy.

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GEOPOLITICS

Arms and the Man

Nato's expansion means new frontiers for defense manufacturers

By TIM WEINER AND JEFF GERTH

WASHINGTON — At night, Bruce L. Jackson is president of the US Committee to Expand NATO, giving intimate dinners for senators and foreign officials. By day, he is director of strategic planning for Lockheed Martin Corp., the world's highest weapons maker.

Jackson says he keeps his two identities separate, but his company and his lobbying group are fighting the same battle. Defense contractors are acting like globe-hopping diplomats to encourage the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which will create a

huge market for their wares. Billions of dollars are at stake in the next global arms bazaar: weapons sales to Central European nations invited to join NATO. Admission to the Western fraternity will bring political prestige, but at a price: playing by NATO rules, which require Western weapons and equipment.

"The stakes are high" for arms makers, said Joel L. Johnson, vice-president for international affairs at the Aerospace Industries Association, a trade group. "Whoever gets in first will have a lock for the next quarter-century." The potential market for fighter jets alone is \$10 billion, he said. Those jets will require flight simulators, spare parts,

electronics and engine improvements. "Then there's transport aircraft, utility helicopters, attack helicopters," Johnson said — not to mention military communications systems, computers, radar, radios and the other tools of a modern fighting force.

"Add them together, and we're talking real money," he said. The first signs of a military spending spree in Central Europe have led the managing director of the International Monetary Fund to raise the issue with the secretary of the Treasury. While the State Department says it is urging restraint on the potential NATO nations, the Pentagon is enticing them to buy American warplanes.

NATO leaders are to meet in Madrid July 8-9 to vote on expanding the alliance. The Clinton administration says Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic should be admitted now. Some NATO members say Romania and Slovenia should join now, too.

But the Clinton administration says Romania's democracy and Slovenia's military do not yet meet the alliance's standards. After Madrid, the issue moves to the US Senate, which must approve new member states by a two-thirds vote.

"To make sure the Senate knew this was an important aspect of US security," Jackson said, his US Committee to Expand NATO recently gave a dinner for a dozen senators at the private Metropolitan Club, two blocks from the White House.

Over lamb chops and red wine, the senators heard Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright explain NATO expansion. The guest list included Bernard L. Schwartz, chairman of Loral Space and Communications, a company partly owned by Lockheed Martin. Schwartz personally donated \$601,000 to Democratic politicians for the 1996 election. Lockheed Martin itself gave \$2.3m, to congressional and presidential candidates in the 1996 election, part of a five-fold increase in defense companies' donations to Democrats from 1992 to 1996.

Lockheed Martin wants its F-16 fighters to replace the old Soviet-made MIG-21's in the hangars of Central Europe.

Norman R. Augustine, Lockheed Martin's chief executive, toured Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovenia in April, drumming up business and supporting the largest possible expansion of NATO. In Bucharest, following through on an \$82m radar contract, he supported Romania's entry.

"Norm has an emotional commitment to NATO expansion," Jackson said.

In May, Bell Helicopter Textron's chairman, Webb Joiner, also promoted Romania's bid as he sealed a \$1b. deal to sell the Romanians marine attack helicopters. In Washington, the company's lobbyist, Dick Smith, said that Bell Helicopter Textron was fighting for Romania's inclusion by "doing everything we can to tell their story to our friends here."

Mircea Goana, Romanian ambassador to the US, said, "The most interested corporations are the defense corporations, because they have a direct interest in the issue." NATO was founded in 1949, at the dawn of the cold war, to enlarge the United States' power in Western Europe and contain the Soviet empire created the chance to expand the alliance.

"NATO enlargement is in our national interests," President Clinton said this month at West Point's commencement. "But because it is not without cost and risk, it is appropriate to have an open, full, national discussion before proceeding." (New York Times)

Make your week
a safe one —
DRIVE
CAREFULLY

BUSINESS

in brief

Shekel slide halted at 3.587 to dollar

The shekel appreciated yesterday by 0.14 percent, settling at 3.587 to the dollar. It was the first time the shekel gained weight in currency trading since the Bank of Israel's alteration of the exchange rate mechanism and the interest rate cut which came with it.

In June, the shekel lost 5.7% of its dollar value and 5.3% of its value against the central bank's basket of leading foreign currencies.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Tadiran, Sri Lanka Telecom in \$15m. deal

Tadiran Telecommunications Ltd. has signed a contract estimated to be worth \$15 million to supply MultiGain Wireless systems to Sri Lanka Telecom, Tadiran announced yesterday. This follows the earlier contract awarded to provide the company with Wireless Local Loop systems.

MultiGain Wireless systems enable companies to meet demand for advanced telephonic services in urban and rural areas. The systems provide toll quality voice reproduction and high fax-rate and modem transmission.

David Harris

Egyptians, Saudis plan \$400m. fertilizer plant

Egyptian and Saudi businessmen will build a \$400 million factory to produce fertilizers from newly discovered natural gas in Egypt's northern shores. *Al-Akhar* newspaper said the project, to be completed in 30 months, will produce 1,750 tons of urea daily to be raised in a second stage to about 2,000 tons daily.

It said the project will provide for 4,000 new jobs, while 25 percent of the production will be used in Egypt, with the rest to be exported. Egypt produces 6.5 million tons of urea annually, but it needs 1.5 million tons more each year.

AP

Israel seeks associate membership in South American trade bloc

By DAVID HARRIS

The Foreign Ministry is examining the possibility of asking the Mercosur South American trade bloc to grant Israel associate membership, newly appointed Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs Victor Harel said yesterday.

Harel added that Israel is also looking to apply for full membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Israel is currently an associate member of the OECD, the umbrella organization for industrialized nations. As such, Israel has representation on 12 OECD committees, but is not on an equal footing when competing for business.

"Membership opens doors to tenders and would be of benefit to Israeli businesses," said Harel.

Among the 29 members of the OECD, annual growth averaged 2.6 percent last year. The organization predicts a decline to 2.5% this year, with a rise to between 2.7% and 3% next year. Inflation in the member countries averages 4.6%.

While Israel already has strong links with the OECD, it has so far not established ties with the Mercosur bloc - which comprises Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Other South American states - Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Chile - are associate members of the body. With free-trade agreements signed with Canada and the US, Israel is now looking to the southern half of the Americas. Relations with Brazil and Argentina are already good, according to Harel, who was born in Uruguay.

In taking on the new role, having just returned from three years as

ambassador to Brussels, Harel has established four other key target areas.

• He intends carrying on the work of his predecessor Oded Eran, now ambassador to Amman, in strengthening links with the Palestinian Authority and on the Jordanian and Egyptian tracks. Despite the freeze in diplomatic talks with the PA, economic negotiations are ongoing.

Earlier this week a meeting was held in Gaza with the donor nations during which Israel and the PA committed themselves to work as quickly as possible to establish the industrial park at Kari, just inside the Gaza Strip. The first factory should be operational before the end of the year, according to Harel, who added that \$7.5 million has been set aside by Israel to help with the project.

• In Asia, Harel wants to see an increase in economic dealings with China and Japan, where Foreign Minister David Levy visited earlier this year. The ministry is also looking to develop new markets, said Harel, who was not prepared to go into details. However, it is thought this is a reference to Malaysia, with whom Israel has no official trade links.

• The increasing trade deficit with the European Union is "a trend that has to be stopped," said Harel. In 1996, exports to the EU totaled \$6.5 billion, with imports standing at \$1.5 billion, comprising 52% of all imports to Israel. There has to be an increase in exports to Europe, said Harel. "That means more accessibility and closer cooperation."

• Central and eastern Europe could also prove to be highly lucrative. An increasing number of agreements are being signed with governments in the region, and there is room for "huge enterprises."

El Al's '97 loss forecast narrows 22% to \$35m.

By HAIM SHAPIRO and Jerusalem Post Staff

El Al now expects to end 1997 with a loss of \$35 million, a 22 percent improvement from earlier forecasts of a \$45m. loss, company spokesman Nachman Kleiman said yesterday.

Last year Israel's state-owned carrier lost \$83m.

Kleiman said the revised figures came as a result of increased revenues and profits during the crucial summer season. Most of the passengers are Israelis going abroad, who are flying in record

numbers this summer, he said, adding that there are fewer tourists than expected arriving here.

There is strong government pressure on El Al to cut its losses ahead of the company's planned privatization next year.

In addition to concern over who will be prepared to purchase shares in the company if it doesn't fly on Shabbat, there is also worry that receipts from the sale will be particularly low while it reports annual losses.

Partly due to that concern, company chairman Joseph Chiechanover told the Knesset privatization sub-

committee last month he favors an initial 51% sale of shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, rather than the Prime Minister's Office preference of a 100% sale on the bourse.

The company attributed its losses to not flying on Shabbat, the costs of security and the political situation, which led to widespread cancellations last year and a failure to rekindle interest abroad this year.

The favorite destination for Israelis so far this summer has been New York, although flights to Orlando have also been doing very well.

Recently, the US Department of

Transport threatened to withdraw permission for El Al to fly to Orlando after the Civil Aviation Administration denied Tower and American Airlines the right to fly between New York and Tel Aviv via Athens. However, the two governments resolved the dispute.

Kleiman said the company was optimistic about the future and was negotiating with Boeing to take up its option for a fourth 747-400.

As for cutting routes, El Al decided to stop flying to New Delhi, but there were no other decisions on any other destinations, he said.

ECI Telecom wins \$54m. deal in Philippines

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ECI Telecom of Petah Tikva announced it has received a \$54-million deal to provide the Philippines Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) with equipment for phase two of its "Zero Backlog Program," a plan designed to provide 600,000 new subscribers with telephone access by the end of 1997.

The equipment includes Access and SDH products. ECI's success in beating out competitors such as Lucent and Siemens reflects its success in building a relationship with the Filipino telecommunications firm, Inbar said.

The recent deal with PLDT "is more than just the size of the contract," said CFO Doron Inbar. "It means that PLDT feels confident with us after Phase I and therefore decided to go with us again."

In 1993, ECI won a \$55m. bid to supply PLDT with the equipment for phase one of the program. By the end of the first phase, PLDT had provided telecom lines to 865,000 new subscribers.

The company, which is currently in the process of bidding on several projects in the Philippines, expects to increase its activities there by the end of the year, said Inbar.

"We think there is a lot of potential there for access products, cable TV modems and new digital technologies," he said.

The increased activities in the Philippines reflect ECI's efforts to expand its business in Asia. In January, ECI completed a \$100m. private placement that was slated for marketing efforts in the region.

Last year ECI sold about \$120m. worth of products in Asia. In addition to the Philippines, ECI has customers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand.

The company would not give an estimate for expected 1997 sales in Asia.

Since the beginning of the year, ECI has received several major orders from around the world. In February, Belgacom announced it awarded ECI with a \$30m. deal to be the Belgian telecommunications operator's sole supplier of access-network pair-gain solutions; in March, British Telecom awarded ECI with a \$58m. three-year contract for telecommunications technology; and recently ECI completed a \$65m. deal with China's Ji Tong.

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By JOEL GORDON

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The latest in TV technology... for \$13,000. A Matsushita Electric employee stands beside a new wide-screen television with a 42-inch plasma display which hangs from a wall during a press preview in Tokyo yesterday. Matsushita said it would start selling the plasma television at \$13,000 in Japan on October 30. The new product's plasma display is brighter and has higher contrast than existing products, the company said.

Thailand moves to calm jittery markets

By ANCHALEE KOITSAWANG

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thailand's top finance authorities yesterday stepped in with additional measures to allay depositor fears about their money after launching a massive shake-up of the troubled finance sector.

They also gave more assurances that there were no more critically troubled companies besides the 16 firms whose names were disclosed on Friday to restore public confidence.

The authorities capped deposit rates for financial institutions to ease their interest burden. Commercial bank deposit rates were capped at 12 percent, finance firm promissory note rates at 14% and finance firms' call rates at 11%.

Although the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand provided strong assurances to depositors that they will be fully protected, they failed to spell out details of how they would help creditors. "We will do our best to help and be fair to the creditors of the 16 troubled finance companies," Bank of Thailand Governor Rengchai Marakaanon told a news conference.

Last Friday Thai authorities forced the 16 ailing firms to come up with plans to merge or have their licenses revoked and be absorbed by healthy firms under purchase and assumption arrange-

ments. They suspended the operations of the affected 16 ailing firms for 30 days and gave them two weeks to come up with concrete plans for their future.

In a move to calm the public, the central bank and Finance Ministry repeatedly assured depositors that their money would be fully protected.

"I would like to ask depositors to understand and not be panicked, as they will be fully protected," Rengchai said, adding: "We expect the situation to return to normal soon."

The head of the central bank said depositors of 16 ailing companies could switch their promissory notes to negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs) with Krungthai Thanakit Plc, a unit of state-run Krung Thai Bank.

Those who wished to withdraw from the other 75 finance firms in the sector could turn their promissory notes into NCDs with Krung Thai and other banks, which the central bank will detail later. Under Thai law, only commercial banks can take deposits.

Finance companies can raise funds by issuing promissory notes. The central bank's financial development fund will unconditionally provide liquidity for the finance firms, which face a run on deposits, according to a senior central bank official.

Finance Minister Thanong Bidaya said he expected the cost of rescuing the sector to be limited if the public fully understood the situation and was not panicked.

Eisenberg's daughter to challenge brother's role in Israel Corp.

By ITAMAR LEVIN

Liz Hardy, the estranged daughter of the late Shoul Eisenberg, will take steps to deprive her brother Erwin of his authority as leader of the Israel Corporation, Hardy's attorney Yossi Segev told *Globes* yesterday.

Segev spoke after a court ordered the holding shares of the Panamanian companies which control the Israel Corporation be deposited with the court.

Ownership of the Israel Corporation resides with two Panamanian companies, Blairside and Felconte, themselves owned on the basis of bearer shares actually held by them.

Erwin contended, in an affidavit to the Tel Aviv District Court, that last December his father, Shoul Eisenberg, gave him the shares of the two companies.

Hardy alleges that Erwin's is a late and unreliable version, and that therefore, the shares of the two companies are part of Shoul Eisenberg's estate.

In a hearing on Sunday, Erwin was to be questioned by Segev concerning his affidavit, but failed to appear. Erwin said he had to travel abroad urgently in connection with the affairs of the estate.

Segev expressed astonishment on hearing this, since the date of the hearing had been coordinated between him and Erwin's counsel. With the consent of

both parties, however, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yishay Levit decided to adjourn the hearing until September 17, until which time the shares will be deemed to be held by the court.

A foremost legal source said the fact that the court will hold the shares has no practical significance at this time.

The affairs of the Israel Corp.,

the source explained, continue to be managed by the board of directors, which is competent, for example, to decide to sell the company's holdings or to issue shares of subsidiary companies, such as Zim.

However, if the need should arise to convene a general meeting, the court will have to take part in such a meeting through its attorney.

Globes

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.850	1.925	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.6.97)					
CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.8562	3.8489	3.50	3.8914	3.8570
U.S. dollar	3.5538	3.6422	3.50	3.68	3.6570
German mark	2.0872	2.0867	2.01	2.11	2.0588
Pound sterling	5.9267	6.0523	5.83	6.12	5.9898
French franc	0.8043	0.8190	0.83	0.82	0.8103
Japanese yen (100)	3.1028	3.1738	3.08	3.22	3.1530
Dutch florin	1.8095	1.8835	1.78	1.88	1.8284
Swiss franc	2.4875	2.4968	2.40	2.53	2.4588
Swedish krona	0.4838	0.4781	0.46	0.48	0.4687
Norwegian krona	0.4850	0.4988	0.47	0.51	0.5408
Denish krona	0.8361	0.8986	0.87	0.91	0.8985
Finish mark	0.5632	0.5603	0.54	0.57	0.5700
Canadian dollar	2.5776	2.5776	2.57	2.57	2.5700
Australian dollar	2.6612	2.7163	2.61	2.75	2.7027
S. African rand	0.7859	0.8050	0.71	0.81	0.7927
Belgian franc (10)	0.9674	1.0114	0.97	1.08	0.9971
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8965	2.9488	2.85	3.00	2.9207
Italian lira (1000)	2.0868	2.1372	2.05	2.16	2.1072
Jordanian dinar	5.0153	5.1372	4.97	5.31	5.1473
Egyptian pound	1.0200	1.1000	1.02	1.10	1.1120
ECU	4.0001	4.0073	4.00	4.00	4.0000
Irish punt	5.3858	5.4870	5.28	5.55	5.4146
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4115	2.4701	2.37	2.50	2.4338

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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مكاتبنا في القدس

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK. Table listing various Israeli companies and their stock prices on the AMEX and NASDAQ exchanges.

LAST CHANGE. Table showing the percentage change in stock prices for various Israeli companies.

LAST CHANGE. Table showing the percentage change in stock prices for various Israeli companies.

NYSE. Table listing various US companies and their stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange.

NYSE. Table showing the percentage change in stock prices for various US companies.

TASE ROUNDUP. Shares mixed as investors assess shekel. Maof 292.09 ▼ 0.37%. Mishtanim 284.98 ▼ 0.26%. By ROBERT DANIEL and JOSHUA MITNICK.

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LAST CHANGE. Table showing the percentage change in stock prices for various Israeli companies.

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Securities Ltd. The Maof Index of 25 most-traded issues fell 0.37 percent to 292.09 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 issues edged 0.26% to 284.98.

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NEW YORK. Table listing various US companies and their stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange.

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES. Gold, Silver, etc. LONDON METAL FIXES. Gold, Silver, etc.

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DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA. Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. PARIS. Table listing various French companies and their stock prices.

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LAST CHANGE. Table showing the percentage change in stock prices for various US companies.

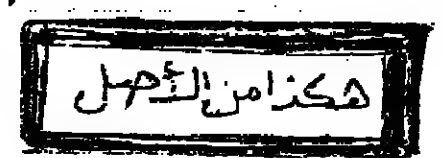
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FRANKFURT. Table listing various German companies and their stock prices. DUTY HOSPITALS. List of hospitals and their services.

AMERICAN LEAGUE. Table listing various American companies and their stock prices. Includes sections for 'WHERE TO GO' and 'GENERAL ASSISTANCE'.



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ASSISTANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit	005	000	100-6	13	0
Boston	402	000	200-8	9	1

Olivares, Bautista (7), M. Myers (7), Mitchell (7) and B. Johnson; Suppan, Washin, 3-3. L.—Bautista, 1-2. Sv.—Stocumh (11).

Toronto	001	000	110-3	7	1
Baltimore	100	100	000-2	5	2

Guzman, Escobar (4), Plesac (8), Timlin (9) and O'Brien; Boskie, A. Benitez (8), Rhodes (8), Mills (9) and Laker. W.—Escobar, 1-0. L.—A. Benitez, 0-3. Sv.—Timlin (9).

Milwaukee	100	000	002-3	12	0
Kansas City	020	000	000-2	10	1

Willing (7), Wickham (8), De Jones (9) and Matheny, Stinnett (9); Pineda, Castan (8), L. Montgomery (9), Fichardo (9) and Macfarlane. W.—Willing, 5-3. L.—L. Montgomery, 0-3. Sv.—Do Jones (19).

Cleveland	151	000	030-10	13	0
New York	303	220	011-11	15	1

Jacobs, Kline (4), Mesa (7), Assenmacher (8), M. Jackson (8) and S. Adams; Cone, Nelson (6), Stanton (8), M. Rivera (8) and Girardi. W.—M. Rivera, 2-2. L.—Mesa, 0-4. HRs.—Cleveland, Ma. Williams (18), Giles (7). New York: T. Martinez (28), Hayes (6).

Chicago	032	100	000-6	11	2
Minnesota	103	000	000-4	9	1

Alvarez, Karchner (6), R. Hernandez (9) and Fabregas; D. Stevens, Fr. Rodriguez (4), Guardado (8), Aguilera (9) and G. Myers. W.—Alvarez, 7-6. L.—D. Stevens, 0-2. Sv.—R. Hernandez (19). HR.—Chicago, Da. Martinez (10).

Seattle	100	001	001-3	6	2
San Diego	000	000	000-0	0	0

D. Springer, DeLucia (9) and Kreuter; Ra. Johnson, Charlton (9), Ayala (9) and Dr. Wilson. W.—Ayala, 5-2. L.—DeLucia, 6-3. HRs.—Seattle, Sorrento (14), Cruz Jr (6).

Texas	101	110	100-5	10	2
Oakland	010	100	050-7	11	0

K. Hill, X. Hernandez (8), Wencland (8) and L. Rodriguez; Karsay, C. Reyes (6), Taylor (9), Groom (9) and Mayne, Go. Williams (9). W.—C. Reyes, 3-0. L.—X. Hernandez, 0-2. Sv.—Groom (2). HRs.—Texas, Greer (11), Ju. Gonzalez (17), Oakland, L. Martinez (12), McGwire (29).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia	001	022	000-5	10	1
Atlanta	000	005	100-6	7	2

Ruffcorn, Blazier (6), Brewer (7), Spradlin (7) and Parent; Brock, Borowski (6), Bielecki (7), Embree (8), Wohlers (9) and J. Lopez. W.—Bielecki, 3-3. L.—Brewer, 0-1. Sv.—Wohlers (17). HR.—Atlanta, Lockhart (3).

New York	010	000	342-10	2	1
Pittsburgh	203	001	101-8	5	1

R. Reed, Lidle (4), R. Jordan (7), McMichael (8), Jo. Franco (9) and Hundley; F. Cordova, Peters (8), Loiselle (8), Christiansen (9) and Kendall. Osik (8). W.—R. Jordan, 1-2. L.—Peters, 2-2. Sv.—Jo. Franco (19). HRs.—New York, Olerud 2 (13), Hundley (19), Huskey (10), M. Franco (3), Pittsburgh, A. Martin (7), K. Young (7).

Houston	000	160	030-10	11	3
Chicago	000	040	031-8	16	2

Tm. Greene, Martin (5), Minor (5), Lima (7), B. Wagner (8) and Ausmus; Mulholland, Wendell (5), T. Adams (7), Rojas (8), Patterson (9) and Servais. W.—Minor, 1-0. L.—Mulholland, 5-9. Sv.—B. Wagner (14). HRs.—Houston, De. Bell (5), Chicago, Sanchez (1), J. Hernandez (3).

San Francisco	000	212	020-7	16	1
Colorado	000	000	211-4	10	1

Estes, Tavarez (7), R. Rodriguez (8), D. Henry (9) and Berryhill; R. Bailey, Dipoto (7), M. Munoz (8), De. Jean (9) and Manwaring. W.—Estes, 11-2. L.—R. Bailey, 8-6. HRs.—San Francisco, Bonds (19), Kent (15), Berryhill (1), Colorado, L. Walker (24), P. Lilliani (1).

San Diego	200	000	101-4	8	1
Los Angeles	200	051	200-10	12	0

Dn. Jackson, Bruske (5), Roehler (8) and F. Harty; Astacio, Th. Worrell (9) and Piazza, Prince (8). W.—Astacio, 4-7. L.—Dn. Jackson, 1-6. HR.—Los Angeles, Karros (16).

Montreal	000	002	100-3	6	0
Florida	400	100	000-5	7	0

C. Perez, Torres (7), Telford (7) and Widger; A. Leiter, Powell (7), Cook (8), Nen (9) and C. Johnson. W.—A. Leiter, 7-5. L.—C. Perez, 8-5. Sv.—Nen (23). HR.—Florida, Bonilla (7).

St. Louis	102	010	010-6	11	0
Cincinnati	400	001	010-000-5	13	0 (12 Innings)

An. Berez, Fosses (7), T. Matthews (8), Frascatore (10), Eckersley (12) and Difelice, Lampkin (11); Morgan, Belinda (5), Remlinger (7), Shaw (10), Carrasco (12) and J. Oliver. W.—Frascatore, 3-2. L.—Carrasco, 1-2. Sv.—Eckersley (16). HRs.—St. Louis, Lankford (10), Clayton (6), Cincinnati, Taubensee (6), Oliver (4).

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING — F. Thomas, Chicago, 380; Saltonstall, Cleveland, 372; Rodriguez, Texas, 350; Ramirez, Cleveland, 339; W. Clark, Texas, 339; Greer, Texas, 336; M. Vaughn, Boston, 335; Justice, Cleveland, 335.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — L. Walker, Colorado, 410; Gwynn, San Diego, 393; Piazza, Los Angeles, 367; Blumser, Atlanta, 349; Lofton, Atlanta, 344; Lankford, St. Louis, 333; Galarraga, Colorado, 330.

HOME RUNS — L. Walker, Colorado, 77; Biggio, Houston, 69; Galarraga, Colorado, 65; Bonds, San Francisco, 56; E. Young, Colorado, 55; Bagwell, Houston, 55; Olerud, New York, 55; Burks, Colorado, 55.

STOLEN BASES — D. Sanders, Cincinnati, 35; Womack, Pittsburgh, 31; DeShields, St. Louis, 29; E. Young, Colorado, 20; Clayton, St. Louis, 19; Lofton, Atlanta, 19; L. Walker, Colorado, 18.

PITCHING (10 Decisions) — Clemens, Toronto, 12-2, 857, 1.79; R. Johnson, Seattle, 11-2, 846, 2.18; Mussina, Baltimore, 9-2, 818, 3.29; Erickson, Baltimore, 10-3, 769, 3.29; Key, Baltimore, 11-4, 733, 2.66; F. Fierro, Seattle, 8-3, 727, 3.65; Cone, New York, 8-3, 727, 2.62.

STRIKEOUTS — R. Johnson, Seattle, 164; Cone, New York, 153; Clemens, Toronto, 122; Appier, Kansas City, 104; Mussina, Baltimore, 99; B. McDonald, Baltimore, 95; Hoogen, Toronto, 90; Milwaukee, 95; M. Rivera, New York, 26; R. Myers, Baltimore, 25; R. Hernandez, Chicago, 19; D. Jones, Milwaukee, 19; Wencland, Texas, 16; Taylor, Oakland, 15; Aguilera, Minnesota, 15.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	50	27	.649	-
New York	45	33	.577	5 1/2
Toronto	31	39	.487	12 1/2
Boston	36	43	.456	15
Baltimore	35	42	.455	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	52	28	.650	-
Florida	47	32	.595	4 1/2
New York	45	34	.570	8 1/2
Montreal	44	35	.557	7 1/2
Philadelphia	23	55	.295	28

Pinch-hit slam highlights Braves' win

ATLANTA (AP) — Pinch-hitter Keith Lockhart hit a grand slam and the Atlanta Braves overcame a five-run deficit to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 Sunday for a four-game sweep.

The Braves won their fifth in a row, and have taken nine straight series from Philadelphia. The Phillies have lost six consecutive games and 14 of 15.

Phillies starter Scott Ruffcorn, 0-7 lifetime with a 8.46 ERA, did not allow a hit, but was pulled after 5 1/2 innings because of wildness. He walked four, hit two batters and threw two wild pitches.

The Phillies led 5-0 in the sixth when Ruffcorn issued a leadoff walk to Chipper Jones and hit Ryan Klesko with one out.

Manager Terry Francona then took out Ruffcorn and brought in Ron Blazier.

But Blazier walked Andrew Jones to load the bases, and Mark Lemke hit an RBI single. Lockhart followed with his first grand slam, tying it at 5.

With one out in the Atlanta seventh, Chipper Jones singled and stole second. Fred McGriff lined a tiebreaking triple down the right-field line off Billy Brewer (0-1).

Mets 10, Pirates 8
John Olerud hit two homers and Butch Huskey, Matt Franco and Todd Hundley also homered during a nine-run comeback over the last three innings that carried New York to a road win.

Francisco Cordova, likely to be the Pirates' only representative in the All-Star game, led 6-1 until Huskey hit a solo homer and Franco followed with a two-run, pinch-hit shot during a three-run seventh.

Kevin Young, who was 4-for-5, homered to make it 7-5 in the bottom half. But Cordova, coming off a two-hit shutout of Houston, left after walking Edgardo Alfonzo to start the eighth, and reliever Chris Peters (2-2) promptly surrendered consecutive homers to Olerud and Hudley, his fourth in seven games against the Pirates.

Astros 10, Cubs 8
Derek Bell and Brad Ausmus drove in three runs each to help Tommy Greene's first start in 1 1/2 seasons, leading Houston to a road victory.

Bell hit a solo homer and a two-run single and Ausmus hit a three-run double for Houston, first in the NL Central at the midway point of the season despite a 40-41 record.

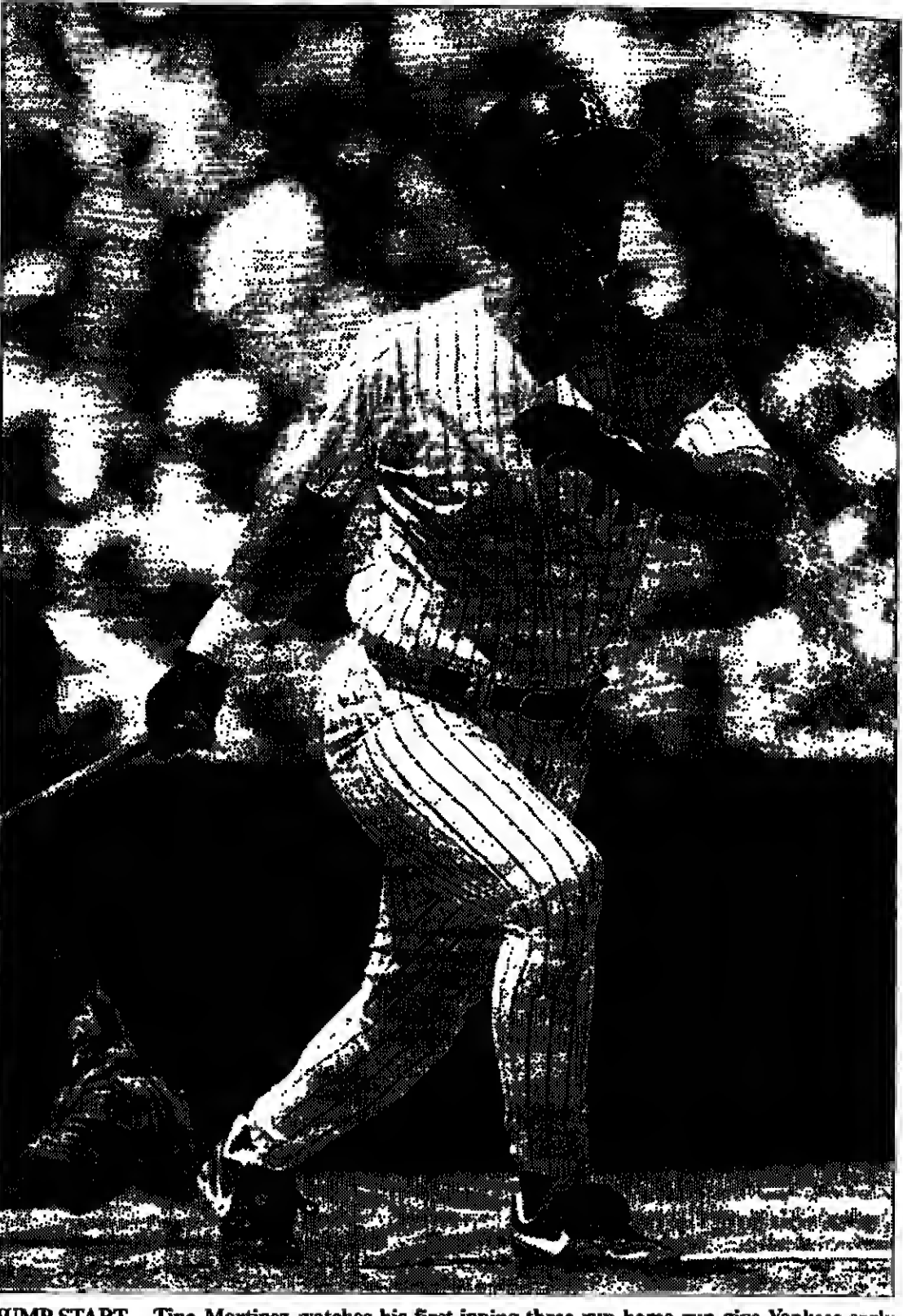
Greene, who missed all of last season because of back and shoulder injuries, started for the first time since Sept. 16, 1995, against the New York Mets and was given a 7-0 lead before he tired.

Giants 7, Rockies 4
Shawn Estes took a shutout into the seventh inning and won his seventh straight decision, leading San Francisco to an away win.

Barry Bonds, Jeff Kent and Damon Berryhill hit solo homers for the Giants, and Darryl Hamilton and Bill Mueller each had three hits. Bonds' homer was his 11th in 22 games, and the Giants have 20 in their last 10 games.

Estes (11-2), on the longest winning streak of his career, struck out seven, walked four and hit a batter.

Roger Bailey (8-6) gave up five



JUMP START — Tino Martinez watches his first-inning three-run home run give Yankees early lead. New York beat Cleveland 11-10.

off Armando Benitez (0-3) and Ouis Nixon followed with a walk. Carter hit Toronto's third sacrifice fly of the afternoon to make it 3-2.

Yankees 11, Indians 10
Tino Martinez bailed out New York's bullpen with an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth inning as the Yankees outlasted the Indians.

After Yankees relievers blew a three-run lead in the top of the eighth, Martinez came through in the home half to continue his hitting tear. Martinez, who hit a three-run homer in the first inning, has 11 hits in his last 20 at-bats and has six homers in his last six games.

Manny Ramirez drove in four runs and Man Williams hit his third homer in two days for the Indians.

Cleveland catcher Sandy Alomar singled in the ninth inning to extend his hitting streak to 26 games.

With the score tied at 10 in the eighth, Paul O'Neill singled with one out off Jose Mesa (0-4) and raced to third on Cecil Fielder's opposite-field hit to right. Left-hander Paul Assenmacher came on to face Martinez, who lined a 1-1 pitch to center.

Mariano Rivera (2-2) got two outs in the eighth and got Tony Fernandez to pop to short center for the final out with the tying run at third.

Red Sox 8, Tigers 6
Darren Bragg, in an 0-for-15 slump, doubled to break a seventh-inning tie, leading Boston to a home win.

Jesus Tavarez reached on an infield single off Jose Bautista (1-2) leading off the seventh, Nomar Garciaparra sacrificed and Bragg doubled for a 7-6 lead. Mike Stanley added a run-scoring single later in the inning.

John Wasdin (3-3) pitched 1 1/2 innings, and Heathcliff Slocumb got five straight outs for his 11th save, helping Boston stop a three-game losing streak.

Brewers 3, Royals 2
Jeff Huson's two-out single scored the go-ahead run as the Milwaukee Brewers rallied for two runs in the top of the ninth.

In the ninth, Matt Mieske hit a leadoff single off Royals closer Jeff Montgomery (0-3). Mieske went to second on a wild pitch and scored on Antonio Williamson's pinch-single to tie the game at 2-2.

Gerald Williams sacrificed Williamson to second before Huson's single to center.

White Sox 6, Twins 4
Wilson Alvarez won his fourth straight start and visiting Chicago won for the 10th time in 12 games.

All four runs off Alvarez (7-6) were unearned because of fielding errors by first baseman Frank Thomas and third baseman Chris Snopce. Alvarez allowed six hits in five innings, struck out three and walked four, lowering his ERA to 2.57.

Mike Cameron robbed Roberto Kelly of a potential game-tying homer in the eighth with a leaping catch above the center-field fence. Roberto Hernandez then pitched the ninth for his 19th save in 22 chances.

Dave Stevens lost his second consecutive start since his recall from Triple-A Salt Lake City.

runs and 10 hits in six innings, stopping his three-game winning streak.

Walker, the major league batting leader, was 2-for-3 with a ninth-inning homer off Doug Henry, raising his average to .410.

Dodgers 10, Padres 4
Pedro Astacio won for the first time in 11 starts and Eric Karros drove in four runs to lead Los Angeles over the visiting Padres.

Los Angeles stopped a 10-game losing streak against the Padres and San Diego's eight-game winning streak at Dodger Stadium.

Astacio (4-7) allowed three runs and six hits in eight innings, improving to 4-0 against the Padres in his career. He had been 0-7 since shutting out Philadelphia on May 1.

Martins 5, Expos 3
Moises Alou and Bobby Bonilla each drove in two runs and host Florida salvaged a split

of the four-game series.

Al Leiter (7-5) allowed three runs in 6 1/2 innings. Leading 5-0, he gave up two runs in the sixth, but escaped further trouble by pitching out of a bases-loaded jam.

The left-hander also got some good support in the field.

Shortstop Edgar Renteria made several crowd-pleasing plays to save hits. Robb Nen pitched the ninth for his 23rd save.

Cardinals 6, Reds 5 (12)
Ron Gant singled home the go-ahead run in the top of the 12th inning as the St. Louis Cardinals overcame four blown leads and two long rain delays.

The defecoding NL Central champions have won seven of their last nine games to close with in a game of first place.

The Cardinals took 3-of-4 in Cincinnati and have won 5-of-7 from the Reds this season.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 2
Joe Carter drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly in the top of the eighth inning and the Toronto Blue Jays completed their first four-game sweep with a 3-2 victory Sunday.

Juan Guzman and three relievers combined for a five-hitter against the struggling Orioles, who scored only five runs in the series.

Baltimore had not lost more than two straight this season before the Blue Jays came to town.

Geronimo Berroa, making his debut with Baltimore after being obtained in a trade with Oakland on Friday, went 0-for-5 with three strikeouts. The Orioles' new designated hitter stranded six runners, making the final out on a fly ball to the warning track in center with a runner on first.

Carlos Garcia opened the Toronto eighth with an infield hit

Norman back at the top

MEMPHIS (AP) — Greg Norman birdied his final three holes Sunday — the last with a 30-foot putt — to win the rain-plagued St. Jude Classic by one stroke, his first PGA Tour victory since March 1996 and in so doing, reclaiming the No. 1 world ranking.

Norman's last tour victory came in the 1996 Doral-Ryder Open, six weeks before he blew a six-stroke lead in the final round of the Masters. The Australian star won his fifth Australian Open title in November, and also took the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf in January.

Repeated rain delays forced all of the field to finish the third round Sunday morning, and Norman played 15 holes for a 69.

With an hour's rest, he then turned in six birdies and a bogey for a 5-under 66.

But Norman didn't clinch his victory until sinking the 30-foot birdie putt on the par-4 No. 18, avoiding a sudden-death playoff with Dudley Hart in the tournament sponsored by FedEx.

Norman finished at 16-under 268, a stroke ahead of Hart, who shot 66-269. Craig Parry (66) and third-round leader Robert Damron (70) finished two strokes back.

Following Norman in the rankings are Ernie Els, Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Price, Tom Lehman, Steve Elkington, Masashi Ozaki, Mark O'Meara and Nick Faldo.

Brazil claim 5th Copa America

LA PAZ (AP) — Latin America's most important soccer championship ended with Brazil asserting itself as the top team after taking the championship with a 3-1 win over Bolivia.

Ronaldo scored the game-winner in the 78th minute and Brazil captured its fifth Copa America title Sunday — the first on foreign soil.

Ronaldo's goal gave Brazil a 2-1 lead and Ze Roberto added the finale three minutes into injury time.

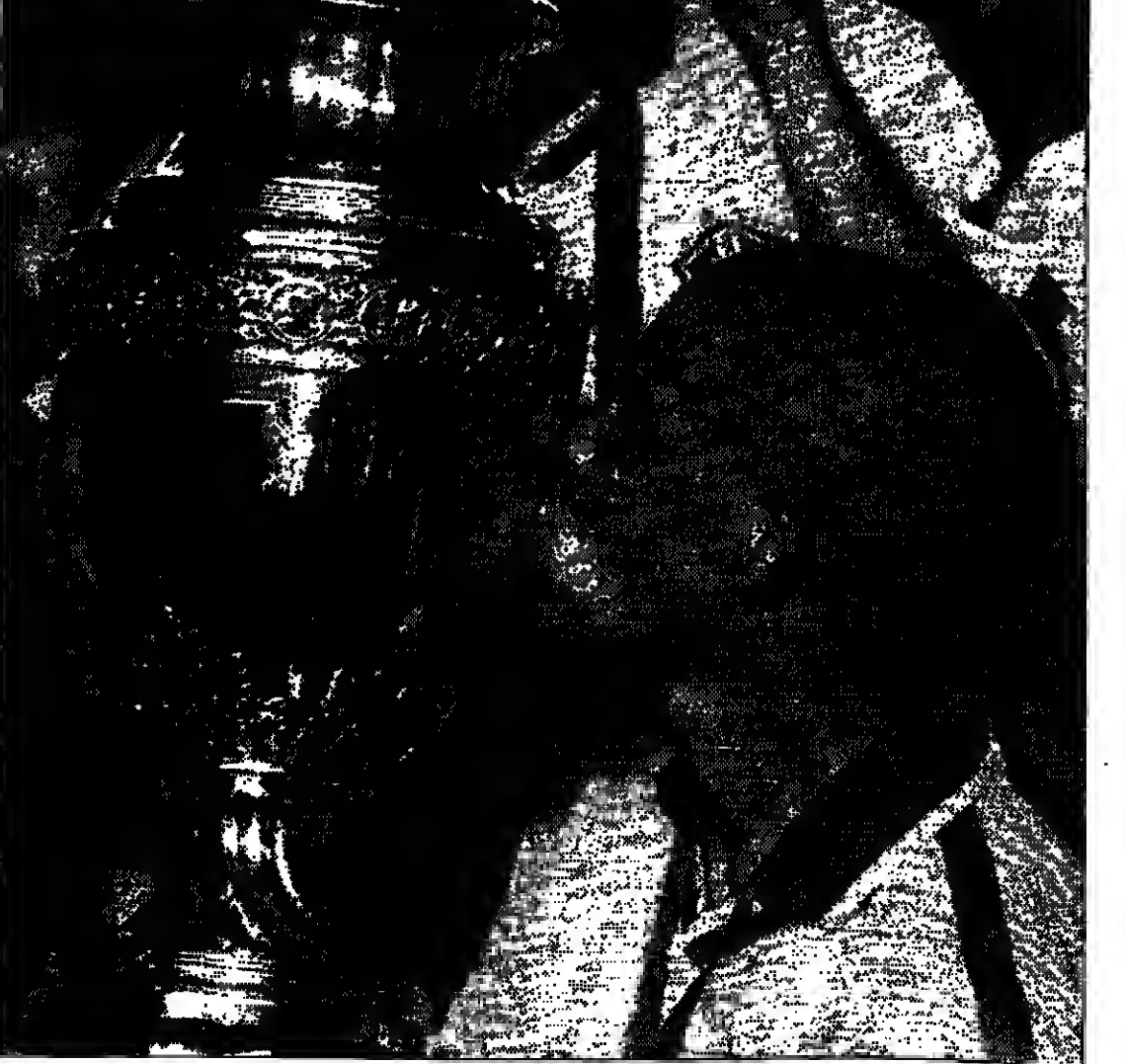
With Brazil apparently wary of the thin air of Bolivia's mountainous capital, Bolivia dominated the first half.

Bolivia's defense easily handled Leonardo's isolated runs, but Brazil still took the lead in the 40th minute before Erwin Sanchez died in first-half injury time.

The first goal came unexpectedly when Roberto Carlos fired a free kick that bounced off Carlos Trucco. Denilson tracked down the ball and scored by bouncing it off Edmundo.

The Bolivians protested, saying Edmundo was offside.

The equalizer also came unexpectedly, when Sanchez launched a 30-meter rocket past Brazilian keeper Claudio Taffarel.



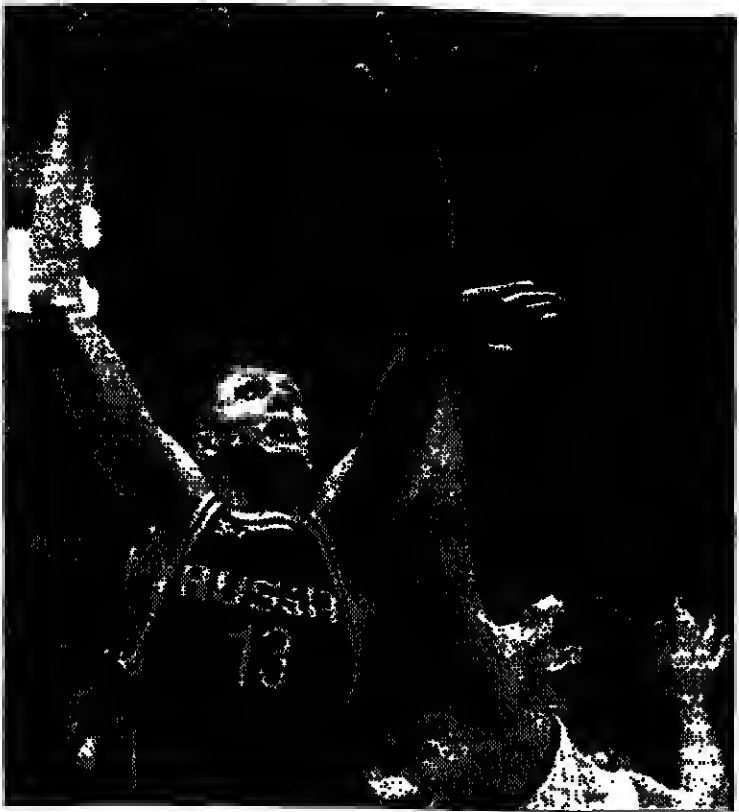
COPA KING — Ronaldo kisses the Copa America following Brazil's win.

technical director. Zagallo played in the 1958 and 1962 teams that won the World Cups. And he was a trainer in the 1970 victory in

Mexico and 1994 victory in the United States.

On Sunday, he added another record: the trainer of the first Brazilian team to have won the Copa America on foreign soil. His next goal is to win the 1998 World Cup in France.

Boring Sampras wins, Seles falls



TOO STRONG - Russian forward Andrei Fetisov drives to the basket over helpless Nadav Henefeld.

Russia crushes Israel 87-69

By ELI GRONER

After giving the Russians an early scare, Israel's national basketball team had one of its patented breakdowns, before succumbing to the Russians 87-69 in European Championships competition in Girona, Spain, last night.

In order to qualify for the quarter-final round, the national hoopsters must defeat Greece tonight, and hope for a French victory over the Turks. All this, assuming that Lithuania had beaten Turkey late last night (after press time). In other Group E action yesterday, Greece beat France 80-71.

After grabbing a surprising 24-23 lead with seven minutes remaining in the first half, the Russians caught fire, while the Israelis went stone cold. Igor Koudelin opened the floodgates with Russia's first three-point shot of the game. Andrei Fetisov and Serguei Babkov added more long-range bombs launching Russia on a 24-7 run.

As usual, coach Zvi Scherf made the tactical error of not switching to a zone defense. By attempting to combat Russia's superior athletes with nothing but a man-to-man, the already tired Oded Katash got into early foul trouble, picking up his fourth in the 24th minute. The flat-footed defense was no problem for Russia to dissect. Fetisov (16 points), Vassily

WIMBLEDON (AP) - Pete Sampras screwed up his face into a wretched expression. "Aargh, disgusting," he said, describing his reaction to Mike Tyson's bite of the century.

Tennis may be boring to some, Sampras noted, but at least it's not boxing.

Sampras is perfectly happy with boring. He loves boring matches like his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 romp yesterday over Byron Black.

Nothing fancy, nothing controversial, just plain-vanilla Pete with his head hunched over between points, going about his business.

He hardly took notice of the yawning Center Court crowd, so different from the roaring masses on People's Sunday the day before, and he enjoyed slipping through to the fourth round almost unnoticed.

Boring is beautiful for Sampras if it means avoiding the kind of upset that knocked out women's No. 2 Monica Seles in an unexpectedly exciting third-rounder against No. 23 Sandrine Testud of France, 6-6, 6-4, 8-6.

Seles, playing for the third straight day as Wimbledon continued to catch up on its rain-wrecked schedule, led 5-2 in the third set and served for the match at 5-3. But she uncharacteristically unraveled after the umpire overruled a linesman's call and cost Seles a point in that game.

"I shouldn't have let it bother me as much and carry it with me," Seles said. "It was murrabing to myself a little that game and the next game, too. All the matches I've lost this year I've been up 5-2. It seems like it's been a magic number for me. I need to close out the matches." Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam championship the 23-year-old Seles has never won.

Four other seeded women fared better Monday, as No. 3 Jana Novotna, No. 8 Arantxa Sanchez



DELIGHT - Unseeded Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud exults after beating Monica Seles in three sets yesterday.

Vicario, No. 9 Mary Pierce and No. 11 Mary Joe Fernandez each scored straight-set wins.

As Sampras pursues his fourth Wimbledon title and 10th Grand Slam triumph, he has so far avoided the perils that have caught the likes of two other big servers, No. 2 Goran Ivanisevic and No. 7 Mark Philippoussis. Sampras next faces No. 16 Petr Korda, who has worked his way back up the rankings after overcoming injuries that saw him sink to No. 41 in 1995.

Try as he did to stay perfectly uncontroversial, Sampras did raise the eyebrow of the All England Club member beside him in the interview room by saying the court was less than lush as the second week began. Wimbledon takes pride in its lawns, and any criticism is taken quite personally.

"It's hard," Sampras said of the tattered Center Court. "There are areas where there's no grass. It's like cement. Unless you play from the baseline, you're not going to have any shots go there. It's the middle of the court where it's all chewed up." Such comments could bring Sampras unwanted attention in the tabloids — "Sampras Says Wimbledon Stinks,"

on Monday that grass "is for cows." Still, he mused his way into the round of 16 by beating John Van Lottum in five sets.

"It's not a surface on which to play tennis," Rios insisted.

In other men's matches, No. 3 Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-3. No. 12 Patrick Rafter advanced with a 7-5, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 triumph over Christophe Van Garssen; No. 13 Andrei Medvedev lost to 19-year-old German Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4; and unseeded Todd Woodbridge beat Alex Radulescu of Germany 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

or "Pistol Pete Blasts Centre Court." It's the kind of publicity Sampras goes to great lengths to avoid.

Boris Becker, also a three-time Wimbledon champion, is similarly happy to keep a low profile. He moved along easily toward a possible quarterfinal match against Sampras by beating Britain's Mark Petchey 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

"I came here not to be so much in the newspaper in the morning, but to play tennis well," said Becker, who next faces No. 9 Marcelo Rios.

Rios, a left-hander from Chile who trains in Florida, complained again

on Monday that grass "is for cows." Still, he mused his way into the round of 16 by beating John Van Lottum in five sets.

"It's not a surface on which to play tennis," Rios insisted.

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Spurs stalk Juninho as Atletico bid crumbles

LONDON (Reuters) - Brazilian midfielder Juninho looked set to join English premier league Tottenham yesterday after his current club Middlesbrough confirmed they had accepted an £11 million (\$18.3 million) bid.

"We have accepted the bid from Tottenham and we have informed Juninho. It is now subject to him agreeing personal terms," said Tottenham manager Les Ferdinand.

Barca confirm Van Gaal as new coach

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Barcelona confirmed yesterday that Ajax Amsterdam boss Louis van Gaal would take over from Bobby Robson as coach for the next three seasons.

An official at the Spanish first division club said former England manager Robson had agreed "in principle" to stay as technical director, with special responsibility for signing players.

In the coming week the club is expected to announce the signing of several players chosen by the new coach.

Dutch defender Michael Reiziger and French striker Christian Dugary are both likely to move to Barcelona from AC Milan.

But despite winning the Spanish Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and the Spanish Super Cup in Robson's first season, Barcelona played second fiddle to arch-rivals Real Madrid in the league, and fans quickly turned against the English coach.

Maccabiah budget at \$11m

The budget for the 15th Maccabiah, which gets under way later this month, stands at \$11 million, an official announced yesterday.

Some 4,000 athletes from 50 overseas countries will take part in the 11-day event which begins on July 14, about 1,500 Israelis will also compete. Uzi Netanel, chairman of the Maccabi World Union said at Kfar Hamaccabiah.

The games begin with an opening ceremony at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan on Monday, July 14 and the organizers have planned a "multimedia event" for the expected full house of 45,000. (Itm)

LOCAL SCENE

Tide turns for windsurfer Amit Inbar

By HEATHER CHAIT

After he was left high and dry last year by Olympic medalist Gal Friedman, windsurfer Amit Inbar won his second major tournament, the Kiel Race Week, in Germany on Sunday.

In a superlative performance, he finished first in eight sails, second in two and seventh in three for the gold medal.

Friedman's placing was just slightly less noteworthy as he finished in third place. Michal Hein took ninth place among the women, clearing the minimum for September's European Championships.

Tenpin bowling: Israel has its first representative on the Presidium of the World Tenpin Bowling Association (European Zone). Ronnie Ashkenazi, chairman of the local union, was voted in at the recent European Championships in Nottingham, England.

The appointment has already had its repercussions. Israel will host the Gold Cup competition next year, and the Team Cup the year after.

At the championships, Rami Koren and Itzik Sender had the best results for Israel, finishing 11th out

of 78 couples in the doubles event. The national youth championships this Saturday in Rishon LeZion see out this year's season.

Golf: The winning husband-and-wife combination of Cyril and Norma Kaufman joined forces with Richard Fogelson and Leslie Ben-Amir to win the week's alliance two best ball stableford competition with 84 points. Trailing on 80 were Uri Aylon, Zvika Kliffer, Simon Grunin and Yossie Spector.

Third place on 77 was filled by Marcus Mandel, Ephraim Katzman, Nate Kansky and Jules Curbinek.

Tennis: Businessman Seymour Brode, active in numerous Zionist causes, including an executive role in Israel Bonds, is the new chairman of the International Board of Trustees of the Israel Tennis Center.

Brode, of Michigan, replaces Edward Reicin of Chicago who held the two-year position since 1995.

Meanwhile, Israel's Juniors at Wimbledon, Koby Ziv, Andy Ram and Rotem Tefferberg begin their pursuit of fame this week, playing on the New Hampton courts due to Wimbledon's rain-clogged schedule.

Cricket: Lions Lod and Young Ashdod were victorious in this week's first division. Lod scored

142/5 (A. Mahinder 48) against Neveh Yonatan's 141 all out (I. Masli 3/21).

Ashdod had it easy, making 197/3 (A. Talkar 61) in response to Yeroham's 194/8.

In the second division, Petah Tikva beat Elvona Stars with 156 to 151 and Dimona C scored 117 (S. Dandekar 41) to beat Kiryat Gat's lowly 83 all out.

Track and Field: Israel just missed moving up a notch in the European Team Cup championships, level B, held in Odense, Denmark this week.

The team collected 115 points, along with the host country but Denmark had five wins against Israel's three and therefore advanced with the winning team Slovenia to level A.

The wins for Israel came from Danny Krasnov with his 5.52 meters pole vault, triple-jumper Avi Teyrie who cleared 16.67m and Alex Fingar's 75.48m in the javelin.

On the first day of the two-day event, the 4x100m relay team set a new record of 40.00 seconds while Tali Greener improved her pole-vault record by one centimeter to 3.41 meters. Both results were awarded bronze medals.

Maccabi to host Miami Heat

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The NBA's Miami Heat will play Maccabi Tel Aviv at Yad Eliahu Sports Palace on October 12, 1998, the clubs announced yesterday.

For the Heat, Eastern Conference finalists this season led by stars Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway and coached by Pat Riley, the preseason game will be their first trip overseas.

London Calling

Not so Sweet Sheri for Spurs

By Mark Rivlin



The best of England's sports photographers has been honing their skills in the most unlikely of places this week - the airport arrivals lounges of various airports, in particular Heathrow and Manchester.

The mysteries revealed behind the lens concerned the arrival from holiday of Howard Kendall and Teddy Sheringham whose summer holidays had been rudely interrupted by deals opening and closing on their behalf.

Kendall left for Spain as the manager of Sheffield United and returned as the new manager of Everton while Sheringham's trip to Florida was mirrored in the typical Brit's color switch when lapping up the sun - white (Spurs) to red (Manchester United).

Sheringham's transfer to Manchester was, by all accounts, a bargain at £3.5 million.

Spurs' chairman Alan Sugar had rated the English striker at nearly double that amount, but the offers were not forthcoming, perhaps because of his age (31).

Ironically, United had made an offer for him last season which was

turned down by Spurs. Eventually, Sugar settled for United's offer and the player was paraded before the press on Friday with the No. 10 shirt he has worn so successfully with Millwall, Nottingham Forest and Spurs.

The move has angered Spurs' fans. Bernie Kingsley of the Tottenham Independent Supporters Club said at the weekend: "It's incredible that we have sold one of our best players to the champions. What is particularly galling is that a few weeks ago the club said they wanted £6 million for him."

Sheringham will have an early opportunity to gauge fans' reaction to the move - his new club visit Spurs on the opening day of the season.

In Kendall's case, Sheffield United were not happy with Everton's bid and the south Yorkshire club are claiming a £1 million compensation package. Kendall will take over at Goodison for the third time as manager in 16 years. His first stint between 1981-87 brought two championships, one FA Cup success and victory in the European Cup Winners Cup.

His second stint between 1990-93 brought nothing but mediocrity, his departure proving the catalyst for a downward spiral in his fortunes with an inauspicious spell with Notts County and newspaper reports of a drinking problem.

His career was rescued by Sheffield United and chairman Mike McDonald who gave Kendall the nod after the departure of Dave Bassett. Kendall rebuilt the squad and nearly pulled off a famous coup as he led the team to the finals of the playoffs where they narrowly lost to Crystal Palace.

How Kendall will fare third time round depends on how he is going to spend the £18 million at his disposal. There are reports that Andy Cole and Paul Ince are on his upmarket shopping list, but his first purchase was jumping down to the local corner store with loose change of £250,000 to pick up the Aston Villa and Ireland striker Gareth Farrelly.

Kendall will have to be careful, there was no shortage of hyperbole at Friday's press conference. ("This is a massive club, I'm just proud to be back here"), but there is much work to be done after three dismal seasons at Goodison.

THE British Lions have set the clock back nearly a quarter of a century after taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the Test series against the Springboks. Jeremy Guscott's late drop goal secured an unlikely 18-15 victory in Durban. Willie John McBride's 1974 squad won three Tests and drew the fourth against the South Africans, but Martin Johnson's current side has defied all the pre-tour pundits in its remarkable

achievement. Above all, the squad has not suffered from the main problem of previous tours where the Test and mid-week sides remained a separate entity. This time, every member of the squad has been made to feel part of the Lions' success, and there has been no trade-off between the four nations for places, the Test team has been picked on merit by the tour management.

CRICKET news has been dominated by the rain and an unseemly off-the-field affair involving Warwickshire wicket keeper Keith Piper who tested positive for use of cannabis. Piper, the most successful product of an initiative to bring the game to the inner city areas of the country, was pushing for a Test cap two years ago, but more recently his form has deteriorated.

Warwickshire dropped him for the championship match with Kent but took no further action because the drug is not listed as one which the English and Welsh Cricket Board demands as one invoking an immediate suspension.

The rain disrupted proceedings all over the country, but it was felt most at the Oval forcing the cancellation of the first floodlit cricket match to be played in England. Surrey (Lions) were due to play Nottinghamshire (Outlaws) in a day-night Sunday League game at the Oval. The elements intervened and an expected gate taking of £100,000 was washed away.

SCOREBOARD

COUNTY CRICKET - Results of rain-affected four-day English county championship matches ending yesterday. In Worcester: Lancashire beat Worcestershire by three wickets. Worcestershire 100/7 declared and 135-6 declared (T.Curran 77 not out), Lancashire first innings forfeited and 237/7 (A.Flinnoff 76, W.Higgs 54 not out), Lancashire 19 points, Worcestershire 0.

Warwickshire - match abandoned without play, Leicestershire 3 points, Warwickshire 3. At Leicester: Northants v Gloucestershire - match drawn, Gloucestershire 189-7 declared (K.Curran 4-9), Northants 58-6. Northants 3 points, Gloucestershire 3.

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL - Weekend league results: Sydney Swans 8.17 (65) def. North Melbourne 7.13 (55). Hawthorn 17.16 (118) def. Gloucestershire 7.13 (55). Port Adelaide 10.9 (69) def. Fremantle 7.12 (54). Brisbane Lions 11.12 (88) def. Collingwood 11.7 (73). Essendon 19.13 (127) def. Richmond 4.19 (34). Western Bulldogs 15.11 (101) def. St. Kilda 11.18 (84). Geelong 17.8 (110) def. Adelaide 7.12 (54). Carlton 12.14 (86) def. West Coast Eagles 11.13 (79).

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מכאן תוכלו

Salameh wants death penalty

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

IDF prosecutors have asked the Beit-El Military Court to hand down 46 consecutive life sentences to Hassan Salameh, convicted yesterday of masterminding three suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon which killed 46 people.

But Salameh, 26, considered No. 2 in the Izzadin Kassam military wing of Hamas, wants the court to sentence him to death, his lawyer Jawad Boulos said.

"I don't mind being a martyr," the attorney quoted his client as saying. "Many of my people wish to stand in the same position I am in today."

Islamic militants believe dying during a Jihad will send them straight to paradise.

The court convicted Salameh yesterday on the basis of his May 18 confession of 60 counts, including charges he planned and implemented the two suicide bombings on the No. 18 buses last year in Jerusalem and

the suicide attack at an Ashkelon soldiers' hitchhiking post.

Despite the confession, the court heard evidence since Salameh faced the death penalty. The tribunal, headed by Col. Ilan Katz, asked the prosecution to clarify whether it had considered asking for the death penalty, which it said it had.

The sentence is expected to be given on July 7.

A military court in Erez already has convicted and given Salameh two life sentences for 19 counts, including planning an attack which left an Israeli soldier wounded and for killing a suspected Palestinian collaborator.

A resident of the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Salameh was captured by chance in Hebron last year, when a car he was in was stopped at an IDF roadblock. He tried to flee and was shot and wounded. He was arrested in a Hebron hospital, apparently after Palestinian security forces informed Israel of his identity.



Pay - or don't fence me in

Part of a group of some 300 farmers yesterday destroy a fence erected near Kibbutz Nahshonim as part of the work on the Trans-Israel Highway. A police helicopter, mounted police, and 20 police vehicles were dispatched to stop the farmers, who tore down the fence to press their demand for compensation for land confiscated to build the highway. (Israel Sun)

Pupils, teachers blast matric exam thieves

By **ARYEH DEAN COHEN**

The Bible says "Thou shalt not steal," and teachers and pupils alike were united yesterday in upholding that principle, roundly criticizing those who allegedly stole the Bible matriculation exams, or benefited from the theft.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that the Government Printing Office worker, arrested on suspicion of supplying the test to his daughter, said he also had given her the questions for the math, English literature, history, and civics exams - but not the Hebrew language test, because she had taken it last year.

Police suspect 150 Herzliya Comprehensive High School pupils of buying the questions for the Bible exam from a classmate, Israel Radio said. Police are investigating whether the earlier

exams were also sold in the school.

However, an Education Ministry spokesman said there are no plans to retest pupils in Bible, but the test notebooks of pupils under suspicion will be examined closely.

"It's unethical to do such a thing, it's absolutely shocking," 17-year-old Merav Suissa, a pupil at Jerusalem's Leyad Ha'universita High School said of the exam theft. However, Suissa said she could understand "the pressure" that might lead someone to do such a thing.

"Kids just sit and study all day, there's a tremendous amount of material. They had the literature exam Sunday, math on Thursday, and then Bible on Sunday." Kids are "under a lot of pressure to succeed" from both their parents and their schools, she said.

Kobi Brosh, 17, a pupil at the capital's Himmelfarb School, was surprised when a reporter told him yesterday someone

had swiped the questions for the test he had taken Sunday.

"I don't understand why they did this," he said. "I guess they figured they wouldn't get caught. I could never do such a thing - it's not ethical, it's not moral, it's just not right. It's no secret that there's pressure, especially on pupils like me who took many tests, but that's no excuse. You just have to learn how to deal with the pressure, that's all," he said.

Ruthi Soffer, 18, a pupil at the Gymnasia Rehavia, said the theft "was wrong because it affects us all. These tests are supposed to count for a great deal, and if someone cheats on them, then it could be thought to have had some effect."

Soffer, who took a total of five matriculation exams this year, including three this past week, said she could understand the type of pressure that might have led to the theft. "They should come up with a system

that allows pupils to take one exam a week; that would take off some of the pressure."

Rivka Kanarek, spokeswoman for the Association of High School Teachers, was having one of the "pressure" arguments. "Heaven forbid if we regard pressure as an excuse for breaking the law," she said.

While accepting the fact that some pupils might feel pressured by the exams, Kanarek said: "This pressure is nothing compared to the type of pressures they will have to deal with during their lives. Pressure must not be an excuse for lawlessness, or for compromising one's morals."

National Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman said he was aware of other irregularities regarding the exams, including pupils copying from each other, or help given by teachers to pupils in order to make sure they achieve better grades.

Lachman said that while the pupils taking

the exams may feel pressured, "many of these students will soon be entering the IDF, and there they will encounter pressure far and away more difficult than these exams. Learning to deal with pressure is part of being prepared to deal with life."

Education Ministry officials stressed that no exams had been stolen for "dozens of years," largely because of the strict security involved. A ministry spokeswoman said the tests are written six to eight weeks ahead of time, after being worked on by a committee.

They are then passed on to a special Government Printing Office unit where they are closely guarded, and then sent in hermetically sealed packages to 200 banks throughout the country before they are distributed to the schools. "The only way such a thing could have happened is for a worker to have been guilty of a breach of trust," the spokeswoman said.

WEATHER	
Haifa 22-31	Tiberias 25-37
Afula 23-34	Samarita 21-32
Tel Aviv 23-28	Jerusalem 20-30
Bereshba 21-34	Dead Sea 30-40
Elat 28-41	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD				
	LOW	HIGH		
	C	F	C	
Amsterdam	15	59	72	cloudy
Berlin	16	61	72	cloudy
Calco	21	70	82	clear
Chicago	18	64	78	clear
Copenhagen	13	55	70	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	15	59	75	clear
Garmisch	12	54	72	clear
Helsinki	12	54	72	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	81	89	cloudy
Johann	04	39	52	cloudy
London	13	55	73	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	54	69	clear
Madrid	11	52	68	clear
Moscow	15	59	70	clear
Munich	18	64	75	clear
New York	14	57	71	cloudy
Paris	14	57	71	cloudy
Rome	16	61	74	partly cloudy
Stockholm	14	57	71	partly cloudy
Sydney	17	63	80	clear
Tokyo	17	63	80	clear
Varna	20	68	86	clear
Zurich	13	55	71	rain

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the jack of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, and king of clubs.

The results of the second draw were the queen of spades, king of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

School is out!

By **ARYEH DEAN COHEN**

Pupils around the country crossed the last day of school off their calendars with glee yesterday and began their annual summer vacation.

A million pupils celebrated the arrival of the big day, while Education Ministry officials began preparations for the coming year, when education for values is to become a major part of the curriculum, and 150,000 pupils are to benefit from a long school day.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer plans to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the next few days to insist that the long-school-day program be run with quali-

fied teachers, and not with other personnel as requested by the Finance Ministry.

Hammer said that following the Civil Service Commission's decision to allow him to set up the Authority for Education Toward Values, this area will be expanded to include Jewish education, education for democracy and coexistence, good citizenship, and activity and education for tolerance and humanism.

"I know for certain that the majority of parents and teachers support this vital educational policy," he said.

Hammer said the focus of these activities will be on the state's 50th anniversary, a natural extension of this year's focus on 100 years of Zionism.

Police: We have enough evidence to indict Ben-Ari

By **RAINE MARCUS and LIAT COLLINS**

Police have sufficient evidence for the State Attorney's Office to indict alleged Russian mafia kingpin Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) for financial offenses, National Crime Squad chief Cmdr. Moshe Mizrahi yesterday told the Knesset Interior Committee.

Mizrahi said Ben-Ari was arrested following a number of complaints, including one by the Bank of Israel, after he tried to open a bank here, but was refused. Ben-Ari, according to police, used a string of straw companies here and abroad to launder massive sums of money. Methods used by Ben-Ari were, according to Mizrahi, "extremely sophisticated," including registering his own properties in others' names to avoid confiscation or tax payments.

National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor told the committee the police support the introduction of a bill against money laundering. Authorities estimate that billions of Russian mafia dollars have been invested here, either in companies or property.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the committee the authorities would not allow "such a man [Ben-Ari] to

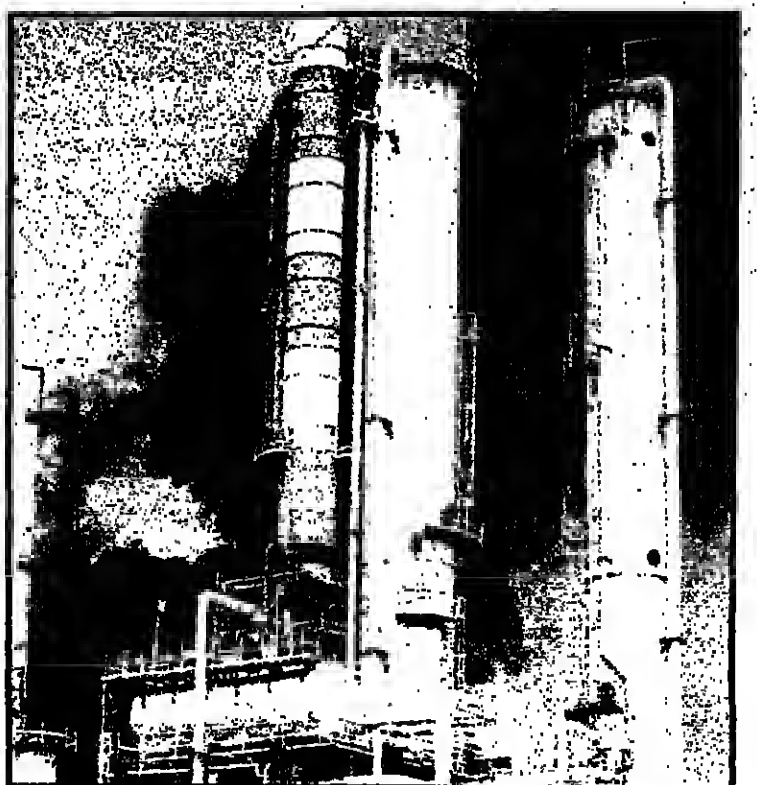
buy the Israeli government, and with the amount of money in his possession, it is possible to buy a government."

On other matters, Kahalani said Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz will tour Gaza this month and meet with the Palestinian Police.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki told the committee that under the law a plainclothes Palestinian policeman who works in the capital is permitted to order Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem to go to Ramallah for questioning. He recommended the MKs act to change the law to enable the Israel Police to deal with the issue.

He added that eastern Jerusalem's Arab residents are interested in remaining under Israeli rule, as it serves their interests, particularly economically.

Kahalani rejected charges that Israel is ignoring the activities of Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub and others in eastern Jerusalem. "It's not true the government turns a blind eye to it," he said, noting the government had sent a message to the Palestinian Authority on the matter. He also noted the addition of 400 Israeli policemen in Jerusalem to avoid a vacuum being filled by Palestinian agents.



Smoke pouring from a chemical fire at the Oil Refineries complex near Haifa yesterday could be seen from seven kilometers away. Fifty-six firefighters and 14 fire engines from Haifa and Acre were called in to put out the blaze. (Yotam Tal, courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

Fire rips through Haifa refinery

By **DAVID RUDGE**

Dozens of firemen fought a blaze at a petrochemical plant behind the giant Oil Refineries complex in Haifa bayside's industrial zone yesterday morning.

The whole of the Haifa fire department, together with back-up crews from the Oil Refineries and Acre, were called to the scene for fear that the flames could spread to other chemical and petroleum installations in the area.

According to senior fire officers it was one of the most potentially dangerous fires in the area for several years - in terms of the hazardous materials in the immediate vicinity. The blaze broke out at the xylene plant of the Gadiv petrochemical company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oil Refineries. The firm makes aromatic products.

There was apparently a breakdown in the plant's systems and the xylene, which has similar properties to kerosene, caught fire, sending flames soaring into the air.

"We could see the smoke from the main station over seven kilometers away and we knew we had a very

serious fire so we mobilized all the fire crews and engines," said Haifa district fire chief Moshe Vardi.

"It appears that one of the pumps in the plant broke down and the material, like kerosene, in the tank itself containing 100 tons, caught fire like a burner underneath the tank," he said.

After more than 90 minutes, three of the firemen, in special protective suits, managed to turn off the valves, effectively stopping the leak. A total of 56 firemen with 14 fire engines were involved in the fight to bring the situation under control.

Vardi said there were insufficient fire prevention facilities in the production process at the plant and he would recommend to the Interior Ministry's northern region commissioner to check planning and building aspects relating to the company.

The spokesman for the Oil Refineries, however, said that representatives of the company had met with the fire service and a timetable for the installation of fire prevention facilities in new parts of the plant had been agreed upon. He stressed that in older parts of the plant, such facilities already existed.

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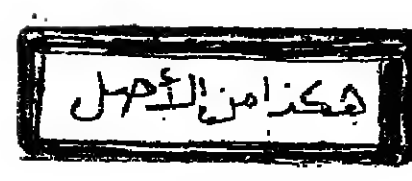
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